WENDELL POST

WENDELL TOWN ELECTION
MAY 7

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Vol. 25, no. 1
Spring Election Issue
2001

FINAL DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE APRIL 17

Judith Wider guilty

20 February 2001

By GEORGE W. CLAXTON
Recorder Staff

GREENFIELD - An ex-tax collector from Wendell pleaded guilty Tuesday in Superior Court to stealing more than a quarter of a million dollars from municipal tax revenues during her tenure as an elected town official.

Judith Wilder, 54, a resident of Wendell, admitted to three felony counts of fraud and embezzlement by a town officer for expropriating money from the real estate, personal property and motor vehicle excise tax revenue accounts of the eastern Franklin County town. Prosecutor Joseph Quinlan, in his sentencing recommendation, asked the court to impose upon Wilder a term of two years in the house of correction the first count, with 18 months to be served and the balance to be suspended during a five-year probation. She would also receive, under the prosecution scheme, concurrent probationary sentences of five years each on the other two counts. Among the conditions of the probation requested by Quinlan is that Wilder make restitution to the town of Wendell for all of the money she stole as well as the cost of the audit and the legal costs incurred by the town in determining its losses and recovering the missing money. Under Massachusetts law, Wilder could receive a maximum sentence of 10 years in a state prison for each count of the crime to which she

Continued inside page 2

Wendell Receives MDC Watershed Technical Assistance Grant Funds To Work with Town Hall Septic Advisory Committee

The Town Hall Septic Advisory Committee received $25,000 from the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) to help them move towards the final phase of their work on a septic system for the Town Hall. The project proposes to hire professionals who will evaluate soils and septic systems in the area and test water quality. The Committee will then select appropriate treatment technologies and complete, through the preliminary design phase, a comprehensive wastewater treatment plan. The project covers those residences and town-owned buildings located within the Quabbin Watershed portion (which is approximately half) of the Committee's Study Area.

The Committee met on March 15th to begin planning their utilization of the funds, which will not be available until July 2001. In addition to hiring professionals to examine the situation and propose solutions, the Committee plans several public meetings and educational efforts to involve residents in their progress and decisions. Look for meeting postings and announcements in the upcoming months.

THE STATE OF POLICING

At the same time the Wendell Police Chief has requested that the Selectboard hire a full-time officer with a federal grant (75% grant, 25% town matching funds), there has been a rash of complaints written to the Selectboard about the Police Department and the patrolling officer, Charlie Ricco.

The Selectboard decided not to hire a full-time officer at this time because of financial constraints and because of recent complaints, which include allegations of excessive policing, unlawful stops and searches, harassment of children, and improper speeding citations.

Continued inside page 2

Gleanings
The Recorder, Greenfield, Mass. Friday, Feb. 16, 2001

WATER TESTS SHOW WENDELL WELLS OK

BY Diane Broncaccio, Recorder Staff

Wendell- Despite a tenant's assertion that the drinking water provided at the Mount Laurel Mobile Home Park was "a toxic stew" unfit for consumption, analysis from a certified water-testing laboratory found the two wells were providing food quality water, according to the Wendell Health Agency's Glen Ayers.

Amherst Water Laboratory tested the wells after town officials received numerous complaints about the water from Mark Ceria, a resident at the 20-acre trailer park. At a Wendell Select Board meeting in January, Ceria brought photographs of bathroom fixtures with dark rust stains that he said came from the water.

Ceria has been raising questions about the water quality since 1988, when he obtained letters from his physician saying that Ceria suffered from symptoms that disappeared when he switched to bottled water.

But two new wells and pumps were installed that summer, after the health board determined that the drinking water from the old wells had "intermittent contamination."

The water was tested again on Jan. 26, from the taps of two different trailer homes on the seven dwelling property. Ayers said Ceria would not permit water samples to be taken from his tap without a search warrant. "The results from bothhhhh wells, according to what we sampled, showed that everything was very normal---week below all allowable limits," said Ayers. "This analysis indicates high quality water.

"Usually, in Massachusetts, it's sulfates and iron that gives water a funny taste, but (Ceria's) well had no detectable iron. I also had them test for volatile organic compounds. They tested for over 50 organic compounds but none were detected."

But to make sure the water is not a risk from any septic system contaminants, Ayers has

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WENDELL POST

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POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

Please send submissions to Wendell Post, P.O. Box 113, Wendell, MA 01379

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: **3 ¾" wide, 12 point font size, standard font.** Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

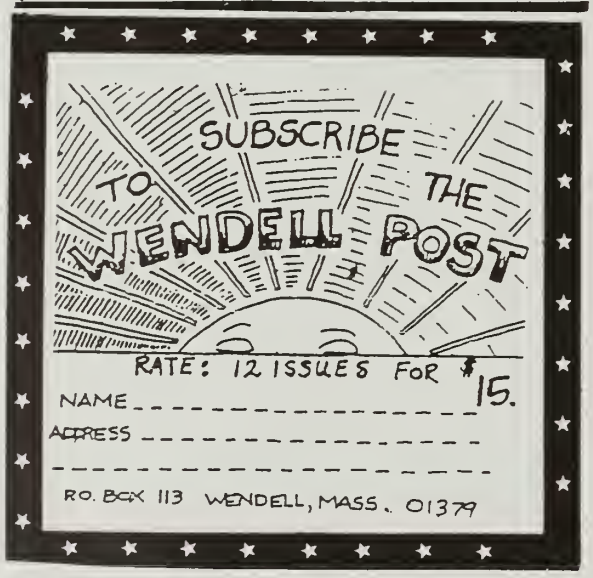
Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell.

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.

Ads: $7.50 per business card!

We now have an e-mail address! Write us or submit articles to wendellpost@yahoo.com



Guilty....from page 1

pleaded guilty. Wilder's attorney, Thomas McEvilly, asked the court to delay sentencing for 60 days while the probation department prepares a pre-sentencing report. Without objection by the prosecution the delay was granted, with the proviso that Wilder must turn over to the probation department all financial records that they may demand and refrain from transferring any assets out of her various business enterprises. According to Wendell town attorney John C. Gates, because Wilder was bonded, at least part of the time that she was the tax collector for the town, Wendell may be able to recover some of the lost money from the bonding agency. `We have not determined how much the town might get back,'' he said. Gates said that it would be pure speculation on his part to say how much damage was done to the town by the theft of the money, but, he said, ``This had a significant impact on the town.

''According to state records on the revenues collected from the town of Wendell during the 1997 fiscal year, the tax levy for the town amounted to $853,205. The total revenue for that year amounted to $1,297,654. No data was available for the other years being questioned, but, if revenues held steady over that period of time, the money thought to have been removed amounts to slightly less than 10 percent a year over the four years. According to Quinlan, between July of 1994 and July of 1998, Wilder stole $160,000 in checks, which she deposited into her business accounts and an additional $100,000 in cash. During a motion to suppress hearing in the case, held late last year, state police testified that they had found deposit slips for Wilder Enterprises made out by Wilder to accompany the deposit of checks made out to the town of Wendell. A previous prosecutor who worked on the case refused to comment as to whether any other embezzlement had occurred in the town of Wendell and said that, even if it had, the statute of limitations would prevent him from prosecuting charges on anything that happened more than 6 years ago. During Tuesday's hearing, Superior Court Justice Judd Carhart questioned Wilder about her criminal activities.

``Did you, in fact, steal money from the Town of Wendell through your job as a tax collector?'' he asked. "Yes,'' Wilder replied, on the edge of tears, her voice catching in her throat.

According to prosecutors, the theft of the money was discovered when Thomas Scanlon, the town's auditor began conducting a routine review of the municipal books in 1998. ``There were some irregularities discovered,'' a prosecutor said. In a 1999 interview, Selectboard Chairman Theodore Lewis said that Wilder had been the tax collector in the town for more than 25 years and had served for almost a year as the town treasurer as well. ``I've known her a long time. She was my neighbor when she moved to Wendell with her folks about 30 years ago,'' he said. Lewis said that the Selectboard appropriates money every year to pay for an audit of the town's books, but could not explain how the apparent thefts of money were not detected by the previous audits. ``That's a good question. I don't know,'' he said.

At the time of the audit that discovered the theft, the district attorney's office said that, although audits were done during the period that Wilder was allegedly embezzling funds, they were ``surface audits'' that were unlikely to uncover theft. ``These audits are not usually for uncovering fraud. They are to make sure the books balance,'' the prosecutor said.

gclaxton@recorder.

Water....from page 1

recommended that the health board have the water sampled quarterly for one year and tested by a certified laboratory for coliform bacteria.

Ayers said the tests showed that the trailer park's water supply wells are providing potable water within the drinking water guidelines of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Because access points to the trailer park's two wells were locked, health officials took samples from taps inside the trailer homes the wells supply.

State of Policing...from page 1

When the Selectboard holds a meeting on a Saturday morning (except for All-Board meetings), the subject is likely to be policing. Look for postings at the Store, Post Office etc.

The last such meeting was held on March 3. Before going into executive session to discuss with the Police Chief the last two complaints made to the Selectboard, there was discussion about the general state of policing, as well as about the grant application.

One resident said he wanted a full-time officer to afford more protection from break-ins at businesses and town buildings. Another thought young people should be searched for alcohol in their cars. One resident didn't mind having her car searched during a routine traffic stop. A citizen member of the Policing Committee said that communities are based on trust, which is a strong element in Wendell and should be honored by our police. One resident stated she would like the policing budget increased to compensate the Police Chief more fairly, but that the police presence is already too great for a low-crime town of 900. She felt that young people are being profiled for unlawful stops and searches. Some residents urged the Police Dept. to become knowledgeable in stop, search and seizure law, to respect our civil liberties derived from the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution.

Many complainants are awaiting word from the Selectboard as to whether and how the Board will remedy their individual complaints and the situation in general.

To help the Selectboard get the best grasp on town opinion of policing activities, send your words of praise or complaint to:

Wendell Selectboard
Post Office Box
Wendell MA 01379.

Gloria Kegeles

Police Questions

To the Wendell Post,

Is there anything to the unhappy buzz about the police, the stories of stops and assists and interrogations that left a bad taste in people's mouths?

As a member of the Community Policing Committee, I believe it's got some legitimacy, but the police have been put into a difficult situation.

A stop I experienced myself did bother me. One evening, near Maple Valley School heading toward my home in the Center, I noticed extremely bright and fast-moving lights in my rear view mirror. It was a brand new sight to me, unearthly, and the word "UFO" popped into my head. Soon I could see it was traveling on the road. It closed on me, and I pulled over to let it pass. It pulled up behind me and bathed my truck in that unfamiliar white light. The mystery solved: outside my window appeared a uniformed police officer.

No flashing blue lights. How was I to know this was an emergency vehicle, on an official mission?

"I know you," said a friendly voice. I realized this was one of our new recruits, following the selectboard's instruction to slow drivers without immediately issuing tickets. I'd heard of several stops that had gone sour. "You live across from the station. You're working on your house."

The encounter from there on was fine: license and registration, a check, a clear verbal warning. I'd been going 52 in a 35-mile zone. I've slowed my driving. I have no idea if he knew I was on the policing committee but it felt good that he knew me somehow. But he'd used poor judgment in the way he did the chase.

As we know, police carry deadly force and are trained to use it. They may consider themselves my protector, but they are also trained to instantly consider me a threat, and to protect themselves. That's an inherently unstable situation, and it feels especially risky if you are from Wendell and you fear the officer has the common prejudice against the Wendell stereotype of idle, drug-using, above-the-law hippie. The officer may not see the real person involved. If my officer had been harsh or commanded me to show my license, on top of the weird chase, I'd have felt cornered, alarmed, and angry. Even as it was, despite the nice words, I felt insecure after the stop about my town's policework.

Our recruits are fresh out of the Police Academy training and under its spell. I've worked with two of them—Charlie and Chris—and these are smart, well-intentioned young men. Basically, though, they're serving in Wendell for a small hourly pay until they can get offers from bigger departments and go on to full time policework. Some important arrests wouldn't hurt their resume. That impulse may sometimes add to their zeal and affect their work.

Somewhere inside, I want armed authority, trained and ready for rare serious difficulty, AND I want mature officers with perfect discretion and the ability to leave people feeling good after an interaction. That's a lot to ask. It sometimes happens—those officers exist—and I'm all for working toward that goal in our department. But I try to remember not to expect a ten-dollar policing job for which I've paid two dollars—not to expect miracles of maturity from a rookie police officer.

A full-time police officer isn't what we need in town We don't need that amount of coverage. In fact, maybe we should ask the chief of police to focus his budget more on training for one promising individual and accep the lesser coverage and routine patrols it would allow. Ideally it would be a long-term Wendell resident who doesn't have aspirations of finding a better job and would add to the community sense of safety, which is a little different and can be in addition to public safety.

Jonathan von Ranson

QUABBIN MEDIATION
CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
Located in the Orange District Court Building
P.O. Box 544 - Athol, MA - 01331 544-6142

OPINION PAGE

PETITION AGAINST FULL-TIME OFFICER POSITION

On March 13, 2001, Wendell residents began signing a petition to the Selectboard opposing the hiring of a full-time police officer. In less than 2 weeks, 160 people signed, including a few residents of neighboring towns who drive through Wendell, and a disproportionate number of young people, including teenagers.

The petition reads as follows:

We, the undersigned, are opposed to hiring a full-time police officer in the Town of Wendell. We believe we will be sufficiently protected from speeders and crime without a full-time officer.

Additionally, we want reduced patrolling and less intrusive patrolling, a respectful attitude towards us during stops, and upholding of our civil liberties. We do not want officers stopping or searching without probable cause, nor do we want officers requesting a voluntary search when there is no probable cause.

The petitions are to be submitted to the Selectboard on March 28 with a request for their response to the Townspeople. Be on the lookout for their response.

Gloria Kegeles

Tax bills for single-famly homes, FY2000

Municipality	Average Value	Tax rate per $1,100 in home value	Average tax bill: median is $2,297	Ranking among 339 Mass. towns and cities
AMHERST	180,598	$19.67	$3,552	52
ASHFIELD	130,807	$16.98	$2,221	185
ATHOL	75,279	$14.95	$1,125	330
BUCKLAND	101,427	$18.64	$1,891	242
CHARLEMONT	102,059	$20.08	$2,049	215
COLRAIN	96,012	$18.65	$1,791	259
CONWAY	149,174	$18.70	$2,790	105
DEERFIELD	144,561	$15.00	$2,168	198
ERVING	92,513	$3.54	$327	339
GILL	110,675	$15.24	$1,687	282
GREENFIELD	102,287	$21.68	$2,218	187
HAWLEY	112,788	$14.74	$1,662	285
HEATH	93,616	$19.42	$1,818	256
LEVERETT	174,779	$18.52	$3,237	67
LEYDEN	125,751	$17.63	$2,217	188
MONROE	66,705	$13.35	$891	332
MONTAGUE	95,466	$16.74	$1,598	298
NEW SALEM	112,319	$14.20	$1,595	299
NORTHAMPTON	143 983	$16.07	$2,314	168
NORTHFIELD	102,913	$14.46	$1,488	310
ORANGE	72,873	$20.18	$1,471	313
ROWE	104,929	$3.22	$338	338
SHELBURNE	122,859	$14.78	$1,816	257
SHUTESBURY	134,177	$22.19	$2,977	87
SUNDERLAND	143,632	$15.92	$2,287	173
WARWICK	84,717	$20.39	$1,727	275
WENDELL	88,514	$20.15	$1,784	261
WESTON	673,670	$11.97	$8,064	1
WHATELY	147,746	$19.09	$2,820	103

To the readers of the Wendell Post,

As I sit here typing for the Post many things go on in my mind I think about all the people I have met and come to care about by doing volunteer work in town. The townspeople that live in my heart are as diverse as this town is. I get to hear many stories and many sides to the same story. What I have learned is there is usually three sides to every story – yours, mine and the truth. Everyone comes with their own past, their own perspective on things. It saddens me when I hear about things that happen, when people have their own agendas – making the division across different factions in town greater than they were I try to work in a positive manner and with a positive outcome always as my goal – not just for myself – for the good of the whole So it is with a sad feeling that I put this paper together, not knowing if all that was submitted should go in,yet removing myself from making some of the judgements on letters and articles.

We as a volunteer paper sometimes make mistakes on our choices We accept and take responsibility for them We are just a few folks trying to keep this baby alive. We love this paper and it does seem like a miracle every time it actually gets all put together and published.

Thanks for letting me ramble,

Anne Diemand

WENDELL POST
25 YEARS OLD!
THIS ISSUE CELEBRATES COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEERISM.

Hi All

The Post is eagerly waited for by many Wendell families, eagerly searching out news of neighbors and our town; information on town meetings and events, Leah Krutka's speeding warning, bits of Wendell's history, what's REALLY happening with the D&B, etc.

Most parents don't expect to see words that society has deemed inappropriate for polite conversation (i.e.; language we would expect to overhear in a school, grocery store or out in public) printed within an article celebrating someone's life.

In the article titled "Old Joe Drozdowski", Mr. Drozdowski was reported to use many foul words, any one of which could have been used if Mr. Dorsey felt it was necessary, he chose to use a word that is also a slang term for a woman's body part in the article. Didn't anyone else feel this was out of line? Why was any quote necessary? We already got the point.

Now, must I pre-read the Post before letting my young daughters see it? How disappointing.

Sincerely,
Jean Daley

OPINIONS....CONTINUED

Wilder Enterprises an Unwitting Accomplice?

I feel the town is owed a full accounting of Wilder Enterprises knowledge of the town's tax funds which allegedly were deposited into its accounts. From what has been made public, it appears that Judy Wilder allegedly deposited a significant percentage of our tax dollars into Wilder Enterprises accounts. If this is true, was it done without the knowledge of Wilder Enterprise's other principals? Where did this cash go? How much was deposited in total?

It is only fair that the town review all of the years of Judy Wilder's tenure as tax collector. The statute of limitations should not limit our research into potential wrong doings extending into the past. We as a town can not afford to ignore this heinous behavior. We need to learn all of the facts and act accordingly. Perhaps a special town meeting should be called with the town's attorney, or some other authority, to fully educate the citizenry about this issue and explore our options.

The message needs to be clear to all Tax Collectors and their accomplices that crime does not pay. And we need to recover all of our lost treasure.

Sincerely, Robert Cabral,
210 Lockes Village Road

Mahar School Committees Owe Town Apologies

The shameless abuse of power witnessed at the recent Wendell Town meeting by the Finance and Mahar School Committees was an example of small town government at its worst. By manipulating the rules of order, the vote on Wendell's participation in the Mahar building fund was Consummated at the town meeting. The original plan, stated on the Warrant, was to vote a second time at the Proposition 2 ½ override the following week. The Finance Committee determined that the townspeople did not deserve this opportunity to debate the issue more fully and voted accordingly. Wendell's representative on the Mahar school board demonstrated utter disregard for the townspeople who strongly disagree with her position on this issue.

Apparently a number of town officials feel that Wendell owes Orange a debt of gratitude for its service to generations of Wendell students. On the contrary, Orange owes Wendell for the tax dollars we have invested in shoring up their mediocre school system. The argument in some circles seems to be that Wendell and Orange are part of some happy community. I think that to the extent that this is true it is a tragedy for Wendell. Orange is a sad, somewhat depressed community and tiny Wendell is not going to change it significantly. By focusing on Orange, Wendell misses opportunities to benefit from expanded relationships with its other neighbors.

The true tragedy is that excellent opportunities abound for Wendell's students. As it stands, a very high proportion of our teens elect to attend schools other than Mahar. When students travel to other schools through school choice, etc. there is an enormous burden on their parents to provide support and transportation. Wendell's Regionalization Committee had worked hard to look at all of the options for Wendell's students of today and tomorrow. The bottom line is that a number of better options were discovered but never fully shared with the citizens of Wendell. Other school districts would charge far less per student and there would not be a $30K + per year building debt for 20 years. My understanding is that certain school districts would have charged thousands of dollars less per student while providing a superior education. Also, an informal survey of the parents of 6th graders indicated that the vast majority do not want their kids to go to Mahar. This information should have been made public prior to the vote.

A new high school building is not going to change the cultural environment of Orange. The new building is not going to improve the quality of teaching and administration. In my opinion, the Finance andSchool Committees have condemned future generations to sub par educational experiences because of their nostalgic views of Mahar. I say shame on you.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Cabral,
210 Lockes Village Road

3-Day Walk for Breast Cancer

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The weekend of May18,2001, I'll be participating in a very special and powerful event in the fight against breast cancer. It's called the Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day and I'd like to tell you about it.

I'll walk 60 miles from Leominster to Boston along with more than 2,500 other determined people to raise money for breast cancer and other diseases that affect women. The net proceeds from the event will support non-profit breast health programs in every region of the country, and medical research on breast cancer.

This cause remains urgent. In the US alone, over 180,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. Over 40,000 will die. I out of 9 women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. This disease ultimately touches us all.

I am excited to be part of this amazing event. It will be a great challenge for an inspiring cause. For me, it is also a powerful way to honor my mom, Rhoda, who died ten years ago from breast cancer.

In order to participate in the 3-Day Walk, I've agreed to raise at least $1,900 in pledges before April 20. I would welcome any support to help me reach this goal. I hope you are moved to share this incredible adventure with me. Thank you...

Laura Botkin
544-0205

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Personal Sovereignty

Because fear is the psycho-setting for every conflict, it can be our worst enemy.
Ironically, fear is our own creation because fear is in our own mind. Perceptions are chosen by the perceiver This must be true unless another controls your mind.
Meaning is in the mind. To you a chair is a chair only when you think it is this must be true unless some molecules can define themselves as a "chair".
Therefore fear is an effect of what you think. And of course we are free to think whatever we want to think Sometimes fear responses serve safety Sometimes they create problems. But we know that the mind can overcome fear. If this were not true, there would be no heroes.
Each of us has the power to make a bad situation better by changing our own mind about it.

> "We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread They may have been few in number, but they offered sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last human freedoms – to chose one's own attitudes in any given circumstances, to choose ones own way." *

P. Cleveland

* Frankl, Viktor E., *Man's Search for Meaning*, Pocket Books of New York, 1963,p 104.

Dear Wendell Post Readers;

Anne Diemand is running for the office of Constable. I am writing to ask you to please vote for Anne. The Constable is a very important function. The first duty is to post the Town Meeting Warrants to give voters the prescribed notice. Another important duty of the Constable is to attend Town Meetings as a peace-keeper. This aspect of the job has fallen out of use, but voters may remember when Joe Hartjens was Constable. He attended every Annual and Special Town Meeting to politely and quietly watch over us. This back-up is very great to have. If a problem were to come up, the Moderator can request that the Constable "keep the peace". This could include removal and even detaining of the disrupting person. We need a person we can trust to be respectful and competent, even under stress.I have seen Anne work as a "peace-keeper" and run peacekeeping operations at public marches and events. She is organized and has inner resources. She has been our "woman of the year". She is respected and she cares about people. She has training, competence, and confidence in herself. I personally would like to know when I am in public places that someone like her is there watching out for my safety. I hope you will vote for Anne Diemand for Constable.

Sincerely, Kathy Becker

Candidate's Statements

Selectboard

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am choosing to run for re-election to the Select Board because I have thoroughly enjoyed the last three years in that position. I appreciate the opportunities to work with many old friends and to make new friends. I am continually impressed by the level of commitment shown by many townspeople who volunteer for the various committees and boards. The challenge of working with others to find a solution to a difficult situation is especially welcome. I am interested in continuing my work on the Town Hall Septic Study Advisory Committee, which just received a $25,000 grant to further its efforts to solve the septic problems at the Town Hall. I also hope to be involved with the Town Common Committee, which will be developing an landscaping plan for the Common. Among my skills that help me in my work are a calm attitude, the ability to listen carefully and a desire for clarity during our meetings and in written pieces. I am open to hearing from Wendell citizens about their concerns and/or problems. Please vote for me in the May election!

by Christine Heard

Hi, My name is David Arsenalt. My wife Marty and I Live at 107 Wendell Rd We are both from surrounding towns and came to live here, on the homestead of our dreams, on October 25, 1996.

I believe that with my education, work ethic and personality I would make a good choice for you and would like to be considered for the upcoming position on the selectboard

My education consists of graduation from Oakmont Regional High School in Ashburnham then on to Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner From there continued my studies at Fitchburg State College. After receiving my degree I went on to teach Automotive Technology and Welding for MWCC from 1982 to 1994. This was part time as I continued to work in the family business of automotive repair and towing.

In 1987 I opened a distributorship with Mac Tools and in 1990 the company hired me as a District Business Manager When we moved to Wendell I went back into distributorship for Mac Tools in this area

From 1992 to 1995 I taught Towing and Recovery for the Towing and Recovery Association of America and realized how much I missed it. After living in Wendell for a year I saw a need for my services and in 1998 started Arsenalt Towing and Recovery Serving Wendell and the surrounding towns while also running the tools business. In the spring of 2000 I was able to concentrate on the towing business.

I am running for the selectboard position because I feel I have excellent people and business skills and hope to bring a positive outlook towards Wendell's issues.

Moderator

MODERATOR 1 YEAR TERM

Kathy-Ann B. Becker, R.N.

I seek re-election for a 17th term as Wendell Town Moderator. The responsibilities of this role involve chairing the Annual Town Meeting and any Special Town Meetings. Voters are best served by a moderator who acts within relevant Massachusetts General Laws, has a discipline of parliamentary practice, and is mindful of local traditions. I am committed to exactly that. I do study the parliamentary process, am an active member of the Massachusetts Moderators Association, and serve on its Board. My goal is to use integrity and keep learning skills to run smooth, safe, fair, honest meetings.

Board of Health

GLORIA KEGELES
Board of Health

I've been a Wendell resident for 11 years. My interest in protecting the beautiful environment we live in, has led me to serve on the Board of Health for the last 2 yrs.

I was appointed to a vacancy in the Board in 1999, and was then elected to a 2-yr. term. I worked extensively in that year with the Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Landfill (CACL) to encourage the Dept. of Environmental Protection to close the DB Landfill and to require proper capping.

One of my first successes on the Board was the passage of a regulation prohibiting the use of sewage sludge, which is pelletized and sold as "organic fertilizer" but contains hazardous industrial and household wastes. I was also instrumental in hiring our highly qualified Title 5 Agent, Glen Ayers, a soil scientist, environmentalist, and fellow BoH member in Leverett, who, in his 6 months' tenure with us, has already helped the Septic Advisory Committee obtain an MDC grant to design a septic plan for the center of town. His expertise is invaluable to our Board.

I try to strike a balance between protecting the environment and maintaining our right to privacy and freedom from government interference, rights which are so dear to the people of Wendell. It's a delicate balance to maintain, and state codes sometimes seem excessive when applied to remote areas. I want to work with those who choose low-impact lifestyles, while protecting our premium quality groundwater and the habitat for all living things.

Road Commissioner

Harry Williston- Highway Commissioner

For eight years Will has been a member of the highway commission He originally joined the commission to fill a vacant term. The highway commission oversees the road department and WRATS, and maintains the equipment They work closely with the select board to get grants such as Improvements for Plain Road, Wicket Pond Road, and Locksvillage Road Sometimes they have to push the state to get results An example would be the bridges between the towns When push comes to shove it is the responsibility of the commission to get things done

Will feels very fortunate to have such a capable foreman as Danny and an experienced road crew Due to his many years of service Will is familiar with the affairs of the commission. One of the events that will eventually occur within the next decade is retiring members of both the highway department and WRATS Will welcomes the towns people getting involved and wishes that more people would call and come to the Commission meetings

He lives across the street from the big red barn and is able to keep an eye on it from home He enjoys being involved and serving the town of Wendell

TS

Hi my name is Michael E. Gifford
I am running for Road Commissioner
I live at: 6 Mountain Laurel Rd
I have lived in Wendell for 7 years.
I currently work for the
Town of Orange Highway
My hobbies include: Fishing, Camping
Computers

Assessor

DALE KOWACKI

Candidate for Assessor

A town is a group of people working together towards a common goal that none alone could accomplish. Each individual brings to the effort at least their goodwill and willing attitude, and at most, offer their strength and skill in a particular area of interest. I've spent the last eleven years working in municipal finance in charge of a company that delivers a variety of financial management services to area towns. I have learned much that I am now ready to bring home in service to my own community. I currently am a member of our Finance Committee and recently was inspired to also join the Board of Assessors in the ongoing effort to establish and maintain fair and equal property valuations throughout town. The financial team in Wendell town government is experiencing a bounty of talent at this time, and I want to help in whatever way I can. I see myself as a fair, thoughtful and hardworking candidate that possesses breadth and depth of experience, with skills particular to the town's financial endeavors. I hope you see me in the same light and vote for me on election day. Thank you.

Tree Warden

For TREE WARDEN John M. Davis

I was trained in my younger days as a tree surgeon. A person cannot think of trees in isolation. Any action we make to change the status quo should be to effect a better environment for all the flora and fauna.

from Cad Goddeu

" The tops of the beech tree
Have sprouted of late,
Are changed and renewed
From their withered state.

When the beech prospers
Through spells and litanies
The oak tops entangle,
There is hope for the trees."

Daniel Bacigalupo

NO COMMENT

School Committee

JEAN FORWARD - SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Jean joined the school committee with a desire to help She is excited about the plans for Mahar and wants to continue see an engaging and exciting learning experience for students and parents at the new school Jean would like stay on the building committee and see the work through she and the members have put in many long hours and it will be a joy to see the new school take shape

AD

Constable

ANNE DIEMAND – CONSTABLE

Wendell historically has used the Town Constable to post Town Warrants before town meetings, to attend town meetings – keeping the peace there and to help out at town elections. The duties that Wendell has used the Town Constable for and the actual powers that the Constable has are much greater. While researching what the duties and powers were, I was surprised to read that the Constable has powers of arrest without any formal training. They also can transport prisoners to a justice or house of correction. They can serve civil process papers.

In quoting from the Hartley v. Inhabitants of Granville 216 Mass. 38, 102 N.E. 942 (1913) "The general duties of a constable are to be vigilant to preserve the peace, to prevent the commission of crime, and to arrest all offenders in his town who might be arrested without warrant, and to procure warrants in other instances of crime commited."

The Town Constable has more power than just to post town warrants and "keep the peace" at gatherings. I felt it important enough to make town voters aware of these duties and the legal power the Constable holds.

When I was nineteen years old I joined the Wendell Fire Dept. and have stayed involved in our community since then. Sometimes the perception that people both inside and outside of our town gets to me, then I remember all the townspeople I have worked with on various projects and committees and all the support I have gotten and that is what I love about this small town. Anything I have ever wanted to do in this town was welcomed with open minds and hearts, all I had to do was ask and help was there for me to accomplish some pretty cool things. Working on the Wendell Post and being a Wendell Police Officer are two of the things I do in town that are dearest to my heart. Informing and keeping the peace - just the duties of the Constable – sounds good to me. I hope you will all take the time to get out and vote on May 7 and a vote for Anne Diemand – Constable would be greatly appreciated.

ANDREW S. HAMILTON
Constable

I've lived in Wendell since 1985, and in Franklin County all my life. In the past I served the Town of Wendell on the Fire Dept. as a firefighter and EMT, and as a member of the Board of Health. I'm currently an Associate Member of the Board of Health

As a caring and understanding person, I feel I would be able to carry out all of the duties of the Constable with an unbiased, open mind. In the peacekeeping function of the position I would work with the intentior of resolving any conflicts in the best interest of all parties involved.

Throughout the time I've lived here, I've seen a lot of faces come and go, but one thing that has remained constant is that the Notice Board has been in disarray. It's always been difficult to figure out what notices are new and current, and which are outdated.

A major duty of the Constable is to post Town Warrants and other legal notices, as directed by the Town Clerk. My flexible schedule would allow me to post notices and check the Notice Boards on a frequent basis. As Constable, I would keep the Notice Board neat and up-to-date so residents could easily identify what is current and relevant to the goings-on of the Town of Wendell.

As I am very knowledgeable of the Open Meeting Laws, I want to guarantee to the townspeople their rights to be informed of all meetings and warrants in a timely manner.

As a member of the community who has attended countless meetings over the last decade, I understand how every meeting is important to the integrity of the community, and I intend to take the postings of these meetings very seriously.

Library Trustee

Ann Marie Meltzer
9 Morse Village Road
Wendell

My main interest in running for the position of Library Trustee is that I care about books and I am an avid reader. I was raised in a family that had a passion for learning and our homes were filled with books of all kinds.

I earn my living as a bookkeeper and also provide office support for people with home based businesses. I am also a teacher of Middle Eastern Dance and am currently teaching movement to teenagers in the Voyagers Program (funded by the Mass Cultural Council) for the North Quabbin Youth Initiative. I am a member of the Restorative Justice Committee and I serve on a Community Probation Board for the North Quabbin Area.

In the past I worked in Public Relations at the Cambridge, MA Arts Council, and I have experience in the non-profit sector through paid and volunteer positions.

I feel that my passion for reading and my business perspective will be an asset to the Library Board of Trustees. Our Library is a gem and deserves the support of our community and I intend to reach this community through innovative programs for our growing and diverse population.

Hi my name is Mary A. Gifford
I am running for Library Trustee
I live at: 6 Mountain Laurel Rd
I have lived in Wendell for 7 years.
I am currently unemployed.
My hobbies include: Genealogy, Crochet
Fishing, Camping, Computers
As Library Trustee I would like to see
If possible to get some of the older
records computerized. As a researcher
I find it very hard at times to go through
some of the older books because of them
being so brittle.

Write-in Candidate for Library Trustee
Kathleen M. Swaim
32 West Street

From everything I have seen and heard about it, the Wendell Library is a vital, popular, and well-run institution devoted to serving the community's diverse needs. I would like to contribute my energy and experience to maintaining and building upon those strengths.

My experiences consist of a lifetime of intensive and varied reading, and in particular a career teaching literature, an avid appetite for popular fiction, and lively interests in children's literature, technological applications, and basic research methods. For decades my librarian sister enriched my understanding of library processes, missions, and opportunities.

I believe I have something to contribute to the Wendell Library and to the community through its library, and I would appreciate your vote for Library Trustee in this year's election.

LAURA BOTKIN

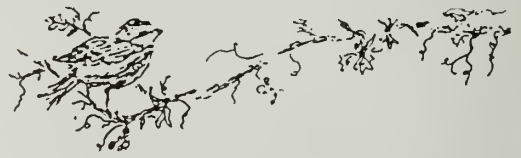
Candidate for Library Trustee

Our Library is wealth in humble disguise. The source of great riches, literary and entertaining, its bounty far exceeds the limitations of its diminutive size. I offer my attention and energy in support of this jewel of the community, so that it may thrive and continue to provide in return for the love and care it requires.

Planning Bd.

PLANNING BOARD
Deirdre E. (Dede) Cabral
210 Lockes Village Road

I am interested in serving you on your Planning Board and believe I can bring a mix of skills and knowledge that will contribute to the work of the Board. I've been asked if I have a "position" and I must say, I haven't figure out a stance that I am bound to promote. But I can contribute a way of approaching questions and issues and a willingness to work as a team and to listen. By way of background: I have lived in Wendell about four years, have a masters in public policy from UCal Berkeley and work at the MA Dept. if Environmental Protection for its Municipal Services section (which provides outreach, technical assistance and financing for water resource protection). I know some of the agency's history here, but hope you can see me as an individual, like yourself, a part of this community. My previous local service was on a Human Relations committee in Quincy addressing race relations. Also, I will be participating in the Wendell Open Space Plan Update Committee.



Upon hearing that Deidra Cabral has offered to serve on the Wendell Planning Board, I have decided not to seek re-election to the Board. I believe Deirdra's input will be a real asset to the Town, and plan to continue to work with the Franklin County Planning Board and to assist in Wendell's planning projects. I am looking forward to the opportunity to focus on the planning process, rather than the broader range of responsibilities facing the Planning Board. Working on the process of developing community goals and a plan of action to guide Wendell's future in the face of development pressures, and encouraging broad public input into this process feels like an important priority for my attention at this time. I feel I will be able to better serve the Town by focusing on this work

I am proud of the work the Planning Board has accomplished during the three years during which I have served. Developing and modifying the Town's bylaw for Wireless Communications Towers has been a major focus. We have worked hard to provide the Town with the best possible tool to minimize the impact of the Federal mandate to allow towers on the community and landscape. It is encouraging to see what appears to be successful negotiations in finding a solution that is workable for all parties concerned. We also drafted a Site Plan Review to allow for broader public comment on larger commercial and institutional developments.

During my time on the Planning Board, I have been our representative to the Franklin County Planning Board. I have been tremendously impressed by both the fine work of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments Planning Department and community leaders throughout the region who are participating in this pioneering form of government as an alternative to the county model. Last fall I helped to get the ball rolling for the Open Space Plan Committee, and I have continued to work with FRCOG planner Bill Labich, committee members, and to encourage other residents to get involved as this process unfolds. This is the traditional first step in the master planning process, which I believe is essential both to direct future growth and to provide town officials with a clear picture of the communities priorities. I urge all Wendell residents to voice your concerns and visions for Wendell's future.

Marianne Sundell

PIONEER GRAD DIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE CLIMBING ACCIDENT

BY George W. Claxton, Recorder Staff

Mount Washington, N.H.---A former Franklin County man who was climbing an ice cliff in the white Mountains died Sunday, February 18, 2001 as the result of a 400 foot fall from the mountain's face.

Ned Green, 26, who grew up in Wendell and Warwick, died as a result of massive trauma caused by the fall in Huntington Ravine around noon.

Green was born in Montague and attended local schools, graduating from Pioneer Valley Regional School in 1992. As a student there, he participated in soccer, basketball and gold. He later attended Greenfield Community College and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine.

For the past few years, Green who was an avid hiker and mountain climber had worked as a caretaker for the Appalachian Mountain Club in New Hampshire and for the Harvard Mountaineering Club. He was working for the Harvard club, and living at its cabin, when he died.

According to the Harvard Mountaineering Club, the facility is open from Dec. 1 to April 1 every year and always has a caretaker on hand at the cabin, which is located near the bottom of Huntington Ravine.

Rebecca Oreskees of the United States Forest Service said that Green, who had been climbing with a partner across an icy cliff face, was knocked off the mountain by a large chunk of ice dislodged by the climber's passage.

"They were climbing together, but they weren't roped together. His climbing partner unknowingly put a climbing tool into what is called an ice dam and that caused a 10 foot by 6 foot block of ice to come off and, unfortunately, that was the piece of ice that Ned was standing on," she said.

An ice dam is a wall of ice that holds back a volume of water. Occasionally large amounts of water are contained behind ice dams under tremendous pressure and, once the ice is cracked, the water can spill forth with great speed and force.

According to William Kelly of the Geology Department at the New York State Museaum at Albany, "Its not the sort of thing that typically happens when somebody hits an ice face with a tool. The chances are that dam was ready to go anyway and they hit it at just the wrong time."

According to Oreskees, when the block of ice Green was standing on was pushed from the mountain he tumbled down the face of the cliff landing about halfway down that face of the mountain.

"It was a pretty busy day up there. There were a lot of people around and they all came to help," she said.

Oreskees reported that Green was still alive when rescuers reached him and showed life signs until they got him down the mountain and into the emergency vehicle that took him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MY GRANDFATHER

Fare you well upon your journey
To the bright lands far away,
Where beside the peaceful rivers
You may linger any day.
There you'll wait, oh my befriended,
And when I have seen my seasons,
We'll walk together there some day.

For Baba with love from Rowan

MERLE O. POWLING

Wendell – Merle O. Powling, 88, of 24 Center Road died Friday (12-15-00) at home.

Born in Whately, Feb. 22, 1912, he was the son of Horatio and Cora (Scott) Powling. He grew up in Whately and Wendell.

A veteran of World War II, he served with the Army in the 104th Infantry Division in northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. He was awarded the Purple Hear for wounds he received in Rhineland and the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Stars.

Merle worked for the Wendell Highway Department for more than 20 years, retiring in 1989. Previously, he had operated a dairy farm for 38 years and had also worked at the Sheldegren Farm in Greenfield. Prior to World War II, he was a logger and woodsman.

He was a member of American Legion Post 172 in Orange, Shutesbury Athletic Club and the 104th Yankee Division Association.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing.

His wife, the former Gladys M. Harrington, died in 1988.

Survivors include two daughters, Cheryl Richardson of Wendell and Diane Fox of Vacaville, California; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Services were at Witty's Funeral Home with the Rev. Lloyd Parrill, pastor of the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Northfield, officiating. Burial will be at Center Cemetery in the spring.

Contributions are suggested to Meals on wheels, 330 Montague City Road, Turners, Falls, MA 01376

I Know Something Good About You

Wouldn't this old world be better,
If the folks we meet would say,
I know something good about you,
And then treat us just that way?

Wouldn't it be fine and dandy,
If each hand-clasp warm and true,
Carried with it this assurance
I know something good of you?

Wouldn't things here be more pleasant
If the good that's in us all,
Were the only thing about us,
That folks bothered to recall?

Wouldn't life be lots more happy
If we'd praise the good we see?
For there's such a lot of goodness
In the worst of you and me.

Wouldn't it be nice to practice
This fine way of thinking, too,
You know something good about me,
I know something good of you?

AND

A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TWO YOUNG LADIES WHO SPENT THEIR SUNDAY UNTIL LATE EVENING GETTING THIS READY FOR YOU ALL TO READ. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS AFRAID NOTICE. AN OBSERVER

Community Policing Update

The Wendell Community Policing Steering Committee meets the second Thursday of each month at the Wendell Police Department Members of the Committee are Jonathon von Ranson, Anne Diemand, Parker Cleveland, Anne Zak, Steve Broll, Trooper Don Cormier, and Ed Chase If you have any concerns you would like to bring before the Committee, contact any one of these people. One of our goals is to improve communication between the police and townspeople and we invite all citizens to join us in this effort

We thought it might be helpful to address some of the concerns that have been brought before us and, hopefully, provide useful information.

The Town of Wendell has a year-round parking ban in effect. In order to allow for adequate off road space for an open door or trunk, and more importantly, a "warning window" for drivers who might encounter a child running into the street, no on-street parking is allowed. All vehicle wheels need to be four feet off the paved surface, or, in the case of unpaved surfaces, four feet from the edge of the traveled way To ensure good visibility, no parking is allowed within 20 feet of an intersection Any vehicle in violation of these regulations will be towed at the owner's expense

If your car is disabled, you are expected to remove it from the right of way You should contact the police department (you can call 911 for this) and give them the location of the car, your name and a phone number at which you can be reached. The police department will determine of there is a traffic hazard. If so, your vehicle will be towed If not, you can arrange for your own towing or repairs or whatever it takes to move it as soon as possible Leave a note on the car for the police telling then what you have done.

When large gatherings (more than 15 cars) are happening at your house, we suggest that you contact the Chief so that a parking plan can be devised that will minimize the inconvenience and maximize the safety for your guests and for other vehicles that are using your street

The Community Policing Steering Committee sponsors a Senior Assistance Program If you are a Senior or if you know of a Senior in town that needs help with snow shoveling, yard clean-up, or other small repairs, call Margie McGinnis at the Town Offices at 544-3395 for further information.

The Community Policing Steering Committee has provided a grant to the Swift River School for their Celebrate Diversity program this Spring We congratulate the school on their effective and important work in helping our young people, as well as the community at large, gain a deeper understanding of diversity Efforts of this nature contribute to building a more peaceable world and we are proud to contribute

Margie McGinnis

Fire Log

#68	3\21\00	Med-Call	Lake Grove School
#69	3\25\00	Med - Call	Lake Grove school
#70	4\9\00	Power Lines\Brush Fire	Morse Village Rd.
#71	5\10\00	Med - Call	410 Farley rd.
#72	5\12\00	Med - Call	1 Locke Hill Rd.
#73	5\20\00	Veh. Acc. Med.	Ruggles Pond Entrance
#74	5\21\00	Fire Call	Locke Hill Rd.
#75	5\26\00	Veh. Acc. Med.	6 Lockes Village Rd.
#76	6\3\00	Med - Call	Wendell Country Store
#77	6\7\00	Cellar Pumpout	17 Farley rd
#78	6\7\00	Cellar Pumpout	Wendell Town Offices
#79	6\13\00	Med - Call	78 Wicket Pond Rd.
#80	6\24\00	Illegal Burn	374 Farley rd.
#81	6\27\00	Illegal Burn	374 Farley rd.
#82	7\5\00	Public Service	345 Farley rd.
#83	7\8\00	Med - Call	Wendell State Forest
#84	7\8\00	Med - Call	Wendell State Forest
#85	7\9\00	Veh. Acc.	Wendell Depot
#86	7\12\00	Public Service	131 Lockes Village Rd.
#87	7\12\00	Med-Call	140 New Salem Rd.
#88	7\15\00	Power Line Fire	3 Mountain Laurel Drive
#89	8/10/00	Med-Call	Lake Grove School
#90	9\28\00	Med-Call	85 Bullard Pasture Rd.
#91	10\22\00	Power Line Invest.	Wendell Depot rd. etc.
#92	11\16\00	Med - Call	Center St. Common
#93	11\25\00	Brush Fire	19 Old Stage Rd.
#94	12\4\00	Med-Call	146-B Mormon Hollow Rd
#95	12\7\00	Med-Call	34 Farley Rd.
#96	12\9\00	Med-Call	20 Center St.
#97	12\10\00	Veh\Acc.\Med Call	New Salem rd.
98	12\17\00	Med-Call	78 Wicket Pond Rd.
99	12\17\00	Power Line/Tree	Locke Hill Rd.
100	12\18\00	Cellar Pump	410 Farley rd.
101	12\18\00	Med-Call	Lake Grove School
102	12\20\00	Med-Call	78 Wicket Pond Rd.
1	1\7\01	Med-Call	Lake Grove School
2	2\14\01	Chimney Fire	39 Old Farley Rd.
3	2\15\01	Med-Call	205 Cooleyville Rd.
4	2\\20\01	L.P.G Leak	84 lockes Village Rd.
5	2\22\01	Veh. Acc.- Rollover	Wendell Depot Rd.

Police Log

02/02/00 One car accident. New Salem Rd no injuries
02/04/00 House check. Wendell Depot Rd
02/10/00 Suspicious activity. Morse VillageRd
02/10/00 Alarm. Wendell Country Store
02/10/00 One car accident. Wendell DepotRd.
02/16/00 911 hang up. New Salem Rd.
02/16/00 Suspicious vehicle. State Forest
02/16/00 Disabled vehicle. Lockesvillage Rd
02/16/00 911 hang up. Lockesvillage Rd
02/24/00 B&E auto. West Rd.
02/24/00 Alarm. Wendell Depot Rd
02/24/00 Cows in road. Wendell Depot Rd
02/24/00 Alarm. Wendell Country Store
02/25/00 Check Welfare. Wendell Depot Rd
02/28/00 Transport to FCHC.
03/04/00 Noise complaint. Wendell DepotRd
03/12/00 Disabled MV. Farley Rd
03/12/00 One car accident. Lockesvillage Rd
03/12/00 One car accident. Wendell Depot Rd
03/12/00 One car accident. Wendell Depot Rd. Injured transported
03/13/00 Two car accident. New Salem Rd. Injured transported
03/15/00 Rape. Lockesvillage Rd
03/18/00 One car accident. Lock Hill Rd. no injuries
03/23/00 Shots fired from moving vehicle New Salem Rd
03/24/00 Car swerving and driving erratically Wendell Rd. in New Salem heading towards Wendell.
03/29/00 Suspicious person. New Salem Rd
04/02/00 Intoxicated persons. Farley Rd
04/05/00 911 hang up. Old Stage Rd.
04/06/00 One car accident. New Salem Rd
04/08/00 Car vs fallen tree. Wendell Depot Rd
04/09/00 Abandoned MV. Bullard Rd
04/09/00 Disabled MV. Mormon Hollow Rd
04/10/00 Unattended death. Bullard Rd
04/14/00 Larceny (mail). Wickett Pond Rd
04/20/00 Animal complaint. Farley Rd.
04/20/00 911 hang up. Farley Rd
04/22/00 Shots fired near school. Wendell Depot Rd
04/24/00 Cows in road. Wendell Depot Rd
04/24/00 Complaint – speeder. Mormon Hollow Rd
05/03/00 MV stolen. Wendell area
05/03/00 911 hang up. John Quist Rd.
05/03/00 Suspicious activity. New Salem Rd
05/11/00 Motor vehicle accident. Wendell Depot Rd
05/12/00 Medical call. Locke Hill Rd.
05/14/00 Officer wanted. Fiske Pond
05/17/00 Suspicious vehicle. Sears Rd.
05/18/00 Traffic hazard. Wendell Depot Rd
05/19/00 Check welfare. Wendell Depot Rd.
05/20/00 One car accident. Ruggles Pond.
05/21/00 One car accident. Montague Rd
05/22/00 Harrasment (phone calls). Locke Hill Rd
05/23/00 Complaint – speeder. Farley Rd.
05/25/00 Officer wanted. Montague Rd.
05/25/00 Officer wanted. Locke Hill Rd.
05/30/00 Assualt. Locke Hill Rd
06/04/00 Dog bite. Farley Rd
06/09/00 911 misdial. Wendell Depot Rd
06/13/00 Alarm. Wendell Country Store.
06/13/00 Alarm Wendell Country Store
06/13/00 Medical emergency. Wickett Pond Rd
06/17/00 Medical emergency. Loskesvillage Rd.
06/19/00 Alarm. Jennison Rd
06/19/00 Complaint – speeders. Mormon Hollow Rd.
06/22-00 Officer wanted. Mormon Hollow Rd.
06/27/00 Threat (phone call). Bear Mountain Rd.
06/27/00 Safety hazard. WRATS
06/27/00 Illegal burn. Farley Rd.
07/02/00 911 hang up. Davis Turn Rd.
07/05/00 suspicious vehicle. Morse Village Rd.
07/05/00 One car accident. New Salem Rd. no injuries.
07/05/00 Complaint – 2 kids riding dirt bike without helmets. Wendell Depot Rd.
07/06/00 Complaint – ATV's on Wendell Depot Rd.
07/07/00 Medical emergency. Farley Rd.
07/08/00 Medical emergency. State Park.
07/09/00 One car accident. Wendell Depot Rd.
07/11/00 Check welfare. Kentfield Rd.
07/13/00 911 hang up. Davis Turn Rd.
07/20/00 Check welfare. Wendell State Forest
07/21/00 Officer wanted. Lockesvillage Rd.
07/30/00 Suspicious vehicle. Wickett Pond Rd.
08/04/00 Suspicious vehicle. Wendell State Forest
08/04/00 Keep the peace. Sears Rd.
08/05/00 Animal complaint. Farley Rd.
08/10/00 Suspicious vehicle. Stone Rd.
08/10/00 Disturbance. Farley Rd.
08/11/00 Suspicious activity. Farley Rd.
08/11/00 Complaint – speeders. New Salem Rd.
08/11/00 Disabled MV. Mormon Hollow Rd.
08/11/00 Transport to FCHC.
08/14/00 Fight. Wendell Country Store.
08/14/00 Two car accident. In front of library.
08/16/00 Animal complaint. Mormon Hollow Rd.
08/16/00 One car accident. Wendell Depot Rd.
08/18/00 Suspicious vehicle. Post office.
08/19/00 Assault. Farley Rd.
08/19/00 911 misdial. Farley Rd.
08/22/00 Officer wanted. Locksvillage Rd.
08/22/00 Alarm. Jennison Rd.
08/26/00 Officer wanted. New Salem Rd.
08/29/00 Illegal activity. Off Wendell Depot Rd.
09/02/00 Larceny. Wendell Depot Rd.
09/02/00 Officer wanted. Usual party spot.
09/03/00 Officer wanted. Family disturbance. Mormon Hollow Rd.
09/04/00 911 hang up. Lockesvillage Rd.
09/07/00 Keep the peace. Wickett Pond Rd.
09/10/00 Alarm. Wendell Country Store.
09/14/00 One car accident. Morse Village Rd.
09/15/00 Accident. Ruggles Pond area.
09/22/00 Harrasment. Ongoing problem with vehicle on New Salem Rd.
09/26/00 911 misdial. Farley Rd.
09/27/00 911 misdial. Wendell Depot Rd.
09/27/00 911 misdial. Davis Turn Rd.
10/01/00 911 misdial. Locke Hill Rd.
10/02/00 Cows in road. Wendell Depot Rd.
10/05/00 911 hang up. Locke Hill Rd.
10/05/00 911 misdial. Locksvillage Rd.
10/06/00 Suspicious vehicle. Center Rd.
10/08/00 911 misdial. Mormon Hollow Rd.
10/09/00 One car accident. Montague Rd.
10/27/00 Noise complaint. Town Hall.
11/04/00 Complaint. Shots fired too close to home. Gate Lane.
11/05/00 License plate stolen. Farley Rd.
11/06/00 Check welfare. Morse Village Rd.
11/08/00 Officer wanted. Threatening phone calls. Morse Village Rd.
11/09/00 Harrasment. Phone calls. Morse Village Rd.
11/11/00 Car window smashed. Wendell
11/12/00 One car accident. Wendell
11/15/00 Safety hazard. Jennison Rd. Beaver ate bottom of tree – fell on wires.
11/16/00 911 hang up. Locksvillage Rd.
11/16/00 Medical emergency. Wendell Center.
11/18/00 Larceny. Davis Rd.
11/24/00 Disturbance. Jennison Rd.
11/25/00 Alarm. Wendell Country Store.
11/25/00 Alarm. Wendell Country Store.
11/26/00 Runaway. Farley Rd.
11/29/00 Complaint – speeder. Montague Rd.
11/30/00 Car stolen. Old Stage Rd.
11/30/00 911 hang up. Old Stage Rd.
11/30/00 Traffic hazard. Roads all ice.
12/07/00 B&E at Highway Garage.
12/07/00 One car accident. Wendell Depot Rd.
12/07/00 Safety hazard. Telephone pole tipping. New Salem Rd.
12/07/00 MV accident. New Salem Rd.
12/14/00 Alarm. Bear Mountain Rd.
12/18/00 Medical emergency. Lake Grove.
12/18/00 Suspicious vehicle. Wickett Pond Rd.
12/21/00 Horses loose. Bullard Pasture Rd.
12/21/00 Two car accident. Davis Rd.
12/22/00 One car accident. Wendell Depot Rd.
12/22/00 Suspicious vehicle. Wendell
12/22/00 Disabled MV. Plain Rd.
12/22/00 Suspicious vehicle. Rush Rd.
12/26/00 Vandalism. Farley Rd.
12/27/00 911 misdial. Jennison Rd.
12/30/00 911 abondoned. Wendell Depot Rd.
01/01/01 One car accident. Montague Rd.
01/05/01 Disabled MV. Old Stage Rd.
01/09/01 Check welfare. Checkerberry Lane.
01/16/01 Disabled MV. Farley Rd.
01/16/01 911 misdial. New Salem Rd.
01/17/01 Abandoned 911 call. New Salem Rd.
01/17/01 Larcency. New Salem Rd. (mail)
01/20/01 Alarm. Wendell Country Store.
01/20/01 Alarm. Bear Mountain Rd.
01/23/01 MV accident. Jennison Rd. cont. pg 9

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Police Log cont. from pg. 8

01/23/01 Disabled MV. Farley Rd.
01/25/01 Safety concern (dogs). Davis Rd.
01/27/01 Alarm. Jennison Rd.
01/30/01 Disabled MV. Farley Rd.
01/30/01 Larceny. Mormon Hollow Rd.
02/04/01 Smoke in area. Mormon Hollow Rd.
02/05/01 Disabled MV. Wickett Pond Rd.
02/09/01 One car accident. Jennison Rd.
02/10/01 Safety hazard – wires drooping. Farley Rd.
02/10/01 Safety hazard – wires down. Wendell Depot Rd.
02/10/01 Suspicious vehicle. Wendell
02/11/01 B&E. Jennison Rd – car broken into.
02/15/01 B&E. Mountain Laurel Dr.
02/16/01 Suicide threat. Wendell Depot Rd.
02/16/01 Larceny. Jennison Rd.
02/16/01 Unwanted person. Wendell Country Store.
02/16/01 Medical emergency. Cooleyville Rd.
02/18/01 B&E Auto. Mormon Hollow Rd.
02/19/01 One car accident. Wendell Depot Rd.
02/22/01 MV accident. Jeep overturned. Wendell Depot Rd.
02/23/01 Officer wanted. Mountain Laurel Dr.
02/24/01 Check welfare. Old Stage Rd..
02/25/01 911 hang up. West Rd.
02/26/01 Officer wanted. Wickett Pond Rd.
03/03/01 Complaint – snowmobiles racing – Old Stage Rd.
03/08/01 Disabled MV. Depot & Plain Rd.
03/12/01 Alarm. Wendell Country Store.
03/18/01 Officer wanted. Old Stage Rd.
03/20/01 Medical emergency. Lake Grove.
03/21/01 911 hang up. Bullard Rd.
03/22/01 Alarm. Wendell Country Store.
03/22/01 Disabled MV. Wendell Depot Rd. & Plain Rd.

"THINK OF ME AS A SEX SYMBOL FOR THE MEN WHO DON'T GIVE A DAMN"
Phyllis Diller

NOTES FROM THE SELECT BOARD

After a recent meeting with the Chief of Police Ed Chase and other citizens, it became apparent to the Select Board that a division has been developing between the police and the citizens of our town. As Jonathan von Ranson pointed out, the real issue is trust.

Wendell is a close knit community of people who help each other, care about each other and generally trust one other to be responsible and trustworthy. Police, by the nature of their job, are trained to be and must act untrusting. They must approach every vehicle and every call with great caution, prepared for anything. Senior members of the Wendell police force, like Ed Chase and others, know people in the community and can be reasonably certain of what to expect from them. Our newer police officers don't enjoy that advantage. Their distrustful attitude rankles Wendell's citizens who expect to be treated as trustworthy citizens. Nonetheless, all members of the Wendell police perform their duties within the law and in a manner that ensures their safety as well as others. All our police strive to be polite, helpful and considerate.

Here are some tips for Wendell citizens. In an effort to slow traffic on our narrow winding roads which are used for recreation by walkers, skiers, runners, bikers, dogs and children, Wendell police will stop cars that are speeding. Drive the speed limit in Wendell and elsewhere. Wendell police will also stop cars to inform drivers about missing lights or out dated inspection stickers and license plates. Make sure you drive only registered, insured, inspected vehicles in good working condition. Our Wendell police are working hard to stop underage drinking and drinking while driving. They are particularly concerned about people who come to Wendell to party in the woods or to buy or sell drugs and/or firearms. Don't drink and drive; and, if you are underage, don't transport alcohol in your vehicle.

If you are stopped by the police, stay in your vehicle and keep your hands where the officer can see them at all times. A police officer has the **right** to search any part of a vehicle that can be reached by the driver. A police officer can **request** to search your bag, the rest of your vehicle or you at any time. You may **deny** this request. An officer can search **without permission** only if s/he has probable cause to do so. You may request to see the officer's badge. Introduce yourself and ask the officer's name. Respond to the officer's requests in a polite and friendly manner.

If you have a complaint about an encounter with a police officer, please call Chief Ed Chase to discuss your concerns. An alternative avenue is to write a letter to or contact a member of the Wendell Community Policing Committee which meets once a month to further improve relations between the police and the citizens of Wendell. Members of the Community Policing Committee are Steven Broll, Ed Chase, Parker Cleveland, Annie Diemand, Paul Rich, Jonathan von Ranson and Anne Zak. If these forums are unsuccessful, the Select Board is always open to hearing citizen concerns. Remember that the stories you hear about the Wendell police are one-sided. The police force often cannot respond to unfair accusations because of confidentiality or privacy concerns.

Finally, remember that our officers undertake a difficult, thankless and potentially very dangerous job for ridiculously low pay. When you see a police officer in Wendell, thank him or her for helping tc keep our community safe for all our citizens.

by Christine Heard

PHOTO: ED JUDICE CURTESY OF DOUG JOHNSON, JR.

Starting from rear – left to right – Harry Williston, Chet Clark, Everett Ricketts, Harold Burnett, Ronnie Clark Jim Henshaw, Peter Hildreth, Geneva Hildreth, Lois Jonhson. Rusty Hildreth, Chris Sweeney, David Prim, Becky Johnson, Penny Ricketts, Marjorie Lewis, Brenda & Del Williston, Mike Wing, Everett Ricketts, Jr., Mark Burnett, Sheila Prim, Dianne Tenny, Melody Lewis, Rick Williston, Donna Prim, Angie Johnson, Doug Johnson,and Mike Sweeney.
Hopefully we have named every one here. Please excuse us if the right name and photo aren't together.

This is the Wendell Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in the late 60's at a litter pickup day.

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 013

December 6th 2000

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present were members: Ted Lewis, Chair; Christine Heard; Marjorie McGinnis, Town Coordinator; and Susan Ward, Selectboard Clerk.

Board reviewed and signed the warrant.

The Board met with Rosalie Rosser who asked the Selectboard for use of the Town Hall for two separate events. The first, December 15th, is a free public event when 5th and 6th grade children from Swift River School will sing and refreshments will be served. This event was advertised in the Council on Aging Newsletter so that local seniors and community members can attend. The second request was for February 15th for a Good Neighbors benefit potluck dinner. Since both of these events are free public events, Ms. Rosser asked that the rental fee be waived. The Board approved both dates and waived the fee.

The Board met with Elizabeth Wroblika of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, Claudia Sculley and Nini Melvin of Chickadees, Inc., and members of Friends of Fiske Pond to discuss a proposal to purchase the Fiske Pond property for a retreat and conservation area. There is a total of 120 acres of land, of which 18 will be developed. In order to fund the purchase of this land, Chickadees, Inc. requested that the Town apply for a self help grant, for which the Town would be required to update its open space plan. Money from this grant would pay for the conservation restriction that would be placed on the land. Funds from this grant would be given retroactively, requiring the Town pay for the total cost of the conservation restriction initially and probably means the Town taking a loan.

Friends of Fiske Pond submitted several pages of a signed petition in support of preserving the pond and land as a public space.

The Board discussed the responsibilities of the Town if Fiske Pond were made a public place, including concerns about water safety, water quality, liability, and control of late night parties. The citizens suggested a managing board of community members to govern these issues.

The Board agreed to send a letter to Mt. Grace agreeing to update the open space plan and expressing interest in applying for the self help grant with certain restrictions, including that all funds needed for the project, including the match and the interest on a loan, cannot be provided by the Town.

Margie informed the Board that the Town Hall locks have been changed. Margie has a list of key holders. The Conservation Commission requested two additional keys for their associate members, which the Board decided not to provide at this time in an effort to reduce confusion surrounding the keys.

The Board agreed to send thank you letters to Senator Brewer and other legislators who were involved in the opening event for the Depot Road Bridge.

The Board discussed the Town Office Repair Committee. Tim Noel and Tom Wetherby will be invited to join the first meeting of the Committee. Other members are Fran Doughty, Charlie Bowes, Ted and Margie.

The Board reviewed a request from the Town of Shutesbury to participate in a Greenways grant. The Board decided not to participate at this time.

The Board discussed Ken Holmberg's letter of complaint regarding the attack on his dog by another, unleashed, dog. A hearing date will be set when Maggie Houghton, Dog Officer, returns from vacation.

The Board discussed Mark Marceau's letter of complaint regarding a barking dog on Wickett Pond Road. A hearing also will be set for that complaint when the Dog Officer returns.

The Board reviewed a letter received from Atty. William Solomon as follow-up from November 15, 2000 Zoning Board of Appeals hearing. Mr. Solomon requested that the Board review his disclosure of his friendship with Glenn Gibbs, the planner hired by the Zoning Board of Appeals. This review is required pursuant to Section 23(b) of Chapter 268A, to notify the Selectboard, in writing, of open and full disclosure. Mr. Solomon also requested that the Board acknowledge and vote in accordance with Section 19(b)(1) of Chapter 268A, that his financial interest regarding his involvement with the nearing and his consultant fees were "not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from the employee." The Board so voted.

The Board reviewed a flyer announcing the Wendell Regionalization Committee's public forum on December 9th in the Town Hall. The Regionalization Committee will be reminded to request use of the Town Hall in the future.

The Board discussed a letter received from Senator Rosenberg's office regarding changes in Special Education regulations.

Dave Howland of the Department of Environmental Protection provided information to the Town about their plans to begin a monitoring contract at the DB Landfill.

The Board reviewed a letter received from the Town of Orange thanking the engineer and construction company who worked on their Randall Pond Industrial Park project.

The Board agreed to review auto repair license conditions at the next meeting.

The Board received an invitation to Franklin County Connect meeting on December 14th.

The Board was informed that the following has been received the Office:

- Swift River School minutes and agenda
- FCSWMD meeting notice
- Legislative Package for FY 2002 from MMA
- Request from Riordan Galluccio to declare December 10th - 17th Falun Dafa Week
- Ethics Commission Bulletin
- Mass Interchange Newsletter
- Recycling Box Newsletter

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

December 20, 2000

Meeting convened at 7:15 p.m.

Present were members: Ted Lewis, Chair; Christine Heard; Katharine Bentley; Marjorie McGinnis, Town Coordinator; and Susan Ward, Selectboard Clerk.

The Board reviewed and signed the warrant.

The Board heard a Town Hall rental request from Don Chappell for January 27th. The Board approved his request and noted that Don has a Conservation Commission key to the Town Hall, but that Joy Gorzocoski can provide him with keys for the lights on the Common if he wants them.

Don Chappell also mentioned the issue of extra keys for associate members of the Conservation Commission. The Board explained their December 6th decision to restrict key distribution to only active board members until further notice.

The Board read a letter from Wendell's Tax Collector, Penny Delorey, requesting the Board notify the RMV Data Center that she is the correct contact.

The Board reviewed and signed Class II and III licenses for 2001 and added the following amendments to last year's conditions.

Michael Wing: Must check hedges twice per year and replace dead bushes. In addition, the south-west end of the fence along the road must be removed by June 30th, 2001.

Mormon Hollow Auto: Must check hedges twice per year and replace dead bushes.

R.E. Pierce Auto: Must check hedges twice per year and replace dead bushes. Must also plant a new hedge along west border.

The Board also removed some conditions that were completed in the past year.

The Board reviewed and signed food permits for 2001.

The Board reviewed a letter from the Mahar Regional District School Committee regarding construction of the new high school. On December 12th, the Mahar Committee voted to spend $29,700,000 on the construction of a new facility. Towns within the district may, within 60 days of the Committee's vote, hold a Town Meeting approving or disapproving this debt. The Board set a date of January 31st for a Town Meeting to vote on this expenditure and a debt exclusion election for February 5th. Margie will check these dates with the Town Clerk and Moderator.

The Finance Committee addressed the Board to discuss the need for additional special education funds for Swift River School. Although the town is obligated to pay the amount in question, the town meeting will allow for open discussion on the issue.

Two dog hearings have been scheduled with Maggie Houghton, the Dog Officer, for January 6th. There will be a hearing at 9:00 a.m. concerning a complaint of an attack on one dog by another and at 9:30 a.m. there will be a hearing concerning the complaint of a barking dog on Wickett Pond Road.

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Selectboard minutes cont.

The Board again discussed the request from the Town of Shutesbury to join in applying for a Greenways grant to fund a feasibility study to assess whether it would be viable to extend existing trails leading from Shutesbury and Lake Wyola through Wendell. The Board approved participating in the feasibility study and agreed to send a copy of the letter to the Planning Board.

The Board discussed what to do with the Boston Globe Oldest Citizen's Cane. Prices for putting a small plaque on the cane were considered. The Board decided to look into pricing for a Plexiglas case to display the cane and for a plaque with the oldest citizen's names inscribed.

The Board reviewed the Sears Road issue in which Margie sent letters to property owners along the road requesting permission to install a gate restricting access to landowners. Margie received one response granting permission, while a second was returned undeliverable and the third has not responded. Christine will contact the third family to discuss the matter.

A revised version of the Town Hall Rental Policy was reviewed. The Board agreed that in the second paragraph a sentence should be added regarding the Town's right to renege on rental obligations in case of municipal functions. Further revisions will be discussed at a later date.

The Board reviewed a letter from Lake Grove School regarding parking on the road and requested Margie contact Lake Grove to request a Community Advisory Board meeting.

A letter was received by the Assessors from the Department of Revenue informing them that the tax rate is approved. Bills will go out this weekend.

The Board was informed the following has been received in the Office:

- Wage survey received from FRCOG
- FRCOG Board of Health update received
- Franklin County 2002 draft budget received
- Resolution received from Town of Brookline regarding MCAS testing
- Proxy voting form for MMA annual meeting
- Press release from the Governor's office stating that Greenfield will open a full Registry of Motor Vehicles
- Traffic calming guidelines received from Massachusetts Highway Department
- Hazardous products training to be held by DEP
- Franklin County Connect Meeting Agenda

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

January 3, 2001

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present were members: Ted Lewis, Chair; Christine Heard; Katharine Bentley; Marjorie McGinnis, Town Coordinator; and Susan Ward, Selectboard Clerk.

Deva Skydancer met with the Board to request use of the Town Hall on January 28th, 2001 for a Shamanism Workshop. The Board approved the request.

The Board set a hearing date of January 17th, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the change in Mike Wing's license conditions. The changes proposed include taking down a broken fence, maintaining bushes, and replacing dead bushes twice a year.

A Special Town Meeting date was set for January 31st to discuss the renovation of Mahar High School. A subsequent vote on the Mahar renovation will take place on February 5th. Town Moderator, Kathy Becker, will not be able to attend the January 31st meeting. The Board will check with Kathy for a referral or ask Jonathan Van Ranson to take her place.

Ted asked the reporter from The Recorder who was present to place an article in the paper requesting the names of people who served in the Korean and the Vietnam Wars be submitted to him for inclusion on a new war memorial.

A letter from Dr. David Crisafulli, Swift River School's Superintendent, regarding special needs costs was discussed by the Board and the Finance Committee. The Town of New Salem passed additional special needs funds, but Wendell was never notified of these expenditures. Communication between the towns needs to be improved. The Finance Committee says there is no funding for this expenditure and would like to turn the request back to the School Committee. If the school cannot fund this student's tuition and transportation the Finance Committee said that the only option for the Town to generate the funds is to raise and appropriate them.

The Board signed a letter of support for the Greenways grant submitted by the Town of Shutesbury. Issues that the Board brought up in the December 20th meeting such as maintenance, safety, and signs will be addressed in the Greenways feasibility study if the project is funded.

The Board reviewed a response to Jim Casino regarding his request for help with his tax situation. Margie requested input from Atty. Ed Smith, our tax-taking attorney, and his response is summarized in the letter.

The Board agreed to support a raise in the hourly rate for town employees by 3% for the next fiscal year and to arrange a meeting with all departments to discuss wages with the Finance Committee.

Dog hearings regarding Ken Holmberg's complaint of an unleashed dog attacking his dog and the barking dog on Wickett Pond Road have been set for 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., respectively, on Saturday, January 6, 2001.

The Board Was Informed That The Following Items Have Been Received In The Office:

- Swift River School Committee minutes and agenda
- Notification from FRCOG of Animal Control Officer training and Preservation Funds training
- Solid Waste Master Plan received from DEP
- DOR bulletin regarding the Community Preservation Fund Act
- Mass. Historic Preservation Award nomination form
- Franklin County Home Care Corp. Newsletter

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Present Members include: Ted Lewis, Chair; Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley, members; Susan Ward, Clerk.

Meeting convened at 7:15 p.m.

The Board reviewed and signed the warrants.

Rosalie Rosser spoke to the Board about the recent death of the current Council on Aging Director. Rosalie is already a member of the Council on Aging and is a volunteer for the Good Neighbors Program. Rosalie requested to be appointed the new director as long as it is not a conflict of interest. The Board agreed that there was no conflict of interest and she was so appointed.

The Board discussed a letter from Dr. Crisafulli, Superintendent of Union 28, regarding the cost of repairs at Swift River School. A joint meeting with the School Committee and Wendell and New Salem Selectboards and Finance Committees has been arranged. The Board agreed to discuss which member will attend this meeting during their next meeting.

The Board was informed that David Wilder resigned as the Town's Constable.

The Board reviewed a letter from Senator Rosenberg's office regarding a meeting in Wendell with Senator Rosenberg and with the Department of Environmental Protection on the impact of Title V on small towns. A tentative date of Thursday, April 26th, at 11:00 am has been set. Margie will write a confirmation letter to Senator Rosenberg's office and ask the Board of Health for input as to specific cases that could be reviewed during the meeting.

A hearing regarding changes to Mike Wing's license conditions was held. Mark Marceau, Wing's neighbor asked that Wing be required to remove the fence between their properties as it is blocking light and stunting growth of Marceau's hedge. Marceau also asked that Wing be required to plant additional trees on Wing's side of the line between the properties. The Board agreed to revisit these requests next year. The changes to the conditions were approved.

Anna Hartjens, Town Clerk, met with the Board to discuss hiring someone to help her. The Board suggested that Jen Carpenter might be interested in a part-time position.

Anna also brought up the difficulty she has had finding time to license dogs for the Town. Since dogs should be licensed by June 1st, the Board helped Anna set up dates to license dogs before then. These dates will be advertised in the Wendell Post. There will be evening hours as well as weekend hours.

In addition, Anna said that she gets far too many calls at the post office regarding Town business. She asked that Margie change her answering machine message so that Anna's home number is listed.

The Board reviewed a copy of a letter to the Highway Department from a resident complimenting them on their work.

The Board discussed several sites that have been proposed for cell towers and discussed amendments by the current zoning bylaw proposed by the Planning Board. The towers proposed will help bridge the signal gap for motorists with cell phones traveling on Route 2.

The Board signed an appointment for Jennifer Carpenter as Board of Health Clerk.

A request from the Town Treasurer for information on previous taxpayers who are deceased was given to Anna Hartjens who may have more information on them.

Appointments for the State Forest Advisory Committee were signed. Christine Heard said there was no response to the advertisement for interested citizens placed in *The Swift River Current*. Bob Ellis has requested that Advisory Board members be able to participate in all planning decisions for the State Forest.

The Board reviewed several articles from the *Recorder* newspaper

The Board reviewed a public hearing notice from the Planning Board.

The Board reviewed a copy of the Open Space Committee minutes received by the office. The following are members: Charles Smith, Mason Phelps, Marianne Sundell.

The Board reviewed information that the Department of Environmental Protection has extended deadlines for the recycling program.

The Board Was Informed That The Following Items Have Been Received In The Office:

- Franklin County Solid Waste Management district meeting notice and minutes
- Franklin County Home Care Corporation Annual Report
- Invitation to Veteran's Memorial Dedication Ceremony in Agawam

cont. next page

Arsenault

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12 Selectboard minutes cont. from page 11

- Invitation to DHCD workshops on comprehensive permits
- Procurement Bulletin
- Mass Interchange Newsletter
- The Citizen Forester Newsletter

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

January 31, 2001

Present were members: Ted Lewis, Chair; Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley; and Susan Ward, Selectboard Clerk.

Meeting convened at 7:02 p.m.

The Board was informed that Paul Rich agreed to accept a seat on the Community Policing Steering Committee. Board members signed his appointment form.

The Board reviewed a request by the Franklin Regional Planning Department for a meeting on Tuesday, February 20th. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the Build-out analysis combined with those for Orange, Warwick and Erving. No Board members can attend this meeting. Margie also is coordinating the meeting with the Planning Board.

The Board discussed a letter received from Gloria Kegeles regarding the Police Department. Ted agreed to discuss the issues brought up by Gloria during a previously scheduled meeting on Saturday, March 3rd. Margie still needs to be informed of this meeting.

Ted informed the Board that the septic tank at the Town Hall has not been pumped since December whereas previously it needed to be pumped bi-weekly. He also believes the electric bill has been lower and attributes the changes to the restriction of unauthorized use of the building.

The Board reviewed a letter from Bob Ellis regarding the Lake Wyola Advisory Committee. Appointments have been sent to the members. Members of this Committee would like to be included in capital planning sessions. The Board supports this request.

The Board reviewed a request from Mike Wing asking that copies of complaints received and the corresponding meeting minutes are sent to him. The Selectboard Clerk, Susan Ward, has been compiling this information. Margie sent a memo to Mike, letting him know that the requested information is forthcoming.

Mark Cena addressed the Board to discuss the quality of water supplied to his trailer located on Mt. Laurel Road. He has found debris covered with a thin layer of soil on the property and he claims that toxins in the soil have tainted the water supply to his home. Mark also complained that the sewage system is below state code standards and would like his system and that of his neighbor to be updated. This is an ongoing problem that Mark has been working on for a number of years. His attempts to contact the property management company who owns the land have been unsuccessful. The Board of Health has agreed to send a letter to the management company asking that the water be tested.

The Board reviewed a letter from Tom Lavoie at DEM, requesting that four members be appointed to the Lake Wyola Advisory Board. The Board agreed to solicit interest through the Swift River Current to add to the names of residents who have already shown interest.

The Board discussed arranging a meeting with the Town Clerk, Anna Hartjens, to encourage her to hire an assistant to help her with her workload. Margie will invite her to the next meeting.

Margie informed the Board that Chickadees, Inc. closed on the 120 acre Fiske pond property with no financial help from Mt. Grace. Mt. Grace representative Elizabeth Wroblika informed Margie that Chickadees, Inc. still intends to create a conservation restriction on a large part of the land, but she did not know specifics. Mt. Grace plans to support Chickadees, Inc. as long as the Friends of Fiske Pond group agrees with the conditions of the conservation restriction.

The Board reviewed Mass. Highways' response to the Town's request to leave the access road beside the Depot Road Bridge intact. Mass. Highways' letter states that recreational use of this access is strictly prohibited and that it would be Wendell's responsibility to enforce this restriction and that the Town would be responsible for any required permitting. Based on this information, the Board voted to rescind its request since it would be too difficult to enforce.

Margie received a letter from Lake Grove School concerning the next Community Advisory Board meeting. They will contact the Board when a date is set. Margie will contact them if she has not heard from them by February 2, 2001.

The Board was reminded of the All Board meeting on Saturday February 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

The Board was informed of the February 20th presentation in the Town Hall regarding Fiske Pond.

The Board was reminded of a February 8th meeting with the Swift River School Committee. Ted may be able to attend.

The Board received an invitation to Swift River School's Celebrate Diversity events on Wednesday February 21st.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Ward
Selectboard Clerk

The following is a new survey. (It is more specific than the one you may have filled out last summer.) We hope to get many responses. This community's interest will help to get the funding needed.

PLEASE CUT THIS SURVEY OUT AND SEND TO
P.O. BOX 171, WENDELL, MA 01379

HELP SAVE THE WENDELL MEETINGHOUSE SURVEY

The following list of uses for the building are just suggestions which have been considered so far. New ideas are welcome. Since the building will most likely have several purposes, Please prioritize the following (and any other ideas you may have) starting with #1 as the most important use to you.

Uses For The Wendell Meetinghouse

___ Spiritual gatherings
___ Historical collections
___ Educational programs
___ Children's programs
___ Arts programs
___ Other: _____

How Can You Help?

__ Money
___ Labor
___ Fund raising
___ Grant writing
___ Serving on a planning committee
___ Writing a letter of support
___ Other: _____

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your phone #: _____

Your E-mail: _____

Please cut out, and send this completed survey form to:

Friends Of The Wendell Meetinghouse Inc.
PO Box 171
Wendell MA 01379

You may also drop this form off at the Wendell Free Library, The Wendell Country Store, or the Wendell PO, or E-mail: thewendellmeetinghouse@hotmail.com

The Wendell Meeting House

Some Thoughts And News About The Wendell Meetinghouse

By Molly Kaynor

Old buildings are intriguing to me. They hold clues, which can reveal a lot about our past. Although we can learn about famous people, places, wars and dates in history books, it's the old buildings that tell about the good stuff... the real life details about the people and communities that used them, and the individuals who built them.

Historic buildings have lasted because they have been built with care. They are still with us now because they were built to last. Like other old buildings in town, The Wendell Meetinghouse is an example of quality architecture, which was built with Wendell's future in mind. We are among those for whom this building was intended. It is a gift to us from a previous Wendell Community.

Despite its dilapidated looks these days with a boarded up window and the obvious need for new paint, our Meetinghouse has been basically well preserved. It needs attention before the leaks in the bell tower cause much more damage, but it has been generally in good shape for the past 155 years. As I discussed in the Meetinghouse structure report (available to all at the Wendell Free Library), the most extensive work it needs, besides woodwork repairs, and paint... is a new front sill. Its basic good health can be attributed to the fact that it has been kept off of the ground, (and has therefore never had moisture wicking up into the frame,) and a lack of insulation on the walls has allowed ventilation, which has kept moisture from damaging the building – the key to the longevity of any wooden structure.

The Friends Of The Wendell Meetinghouse Inc. have gotten the necessary groundwork done so that funding opportunities to restore this building back to its original condition are now possible.

The group has recently become incorporated, and is close to attaining a non-profit status. The bylaws have been established, and there is even a Wendell Meetinghouse bank account, which now has some funds, thanks to the March 2001 Full Moon Coffee House and a couple of private donors. Meetings are held monthly. All are welcome. You may write to P.O. Box 171, Wendell, MA. 01379 or you may contact us at our e-mail: thewendellmeetinghouse@hothotmail.com

Our Meetinghouse holds opportunities for all. It stands at the heart of our town to serve us. It offers a place to gather for whatever reasons we choose.

As Lisa Hoag said at this month's Coffee House benefit, "This community's collective hopes and dreams for The Wendell Meetinghouse will determine where necessary funding will be sought". Your responses to the following survey are therefore very important!

Many thanks for your time and attention to this most worthy community endeavor!

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"Computerization at the Library: more? less? the same?

The library's Board of Trustees and Directors are currently putting together a LIBRARY SURVEY. Input from the citizens will be valuable to us concerning several issues, and it will particularly help us make the right choice about "computerization changes" at the library. We need to make decisions that best reflect the needs, resources and desires of the townspeople of Wendell.

The prime issue of possible change concerns "computerization" at the library. We have to decide whether or not to put our entire Card Catalog on computer (namely, on-line and accessible via the internet). A computer-based internet system will also provide functions affecting how people can use the Inter-Library Loan System (ILL).

(Note: ILL is a service which provides patrons with materials from other libraries (across the region, state and country.)

The computerization issues are not simple. And to help you understand what the board and directors are struggling with, and to provide you with a flavor for some of the opinions on the board, Rosie Heidkamp (Director) and Francis Doughty (Chair-Trustees) decided to write a point-counterpoint commentary.

POINT (in favor)
by Rosie Heidkamp - Library Director

The Wendell Free Library has the opportunity to receive a grant form the state to join a Central/Western Mass. internet-based card catalog site called CWMARS (Central Western Mass. Automated Resource Sharing).

Established in 1983, CWMARS is electronically linking public, state and university libraries into one larger Western and Central Mass. library collection. It can b e thought of as many branch libraries with a joint collection of over six-million items to borrow. Each library involved continues to operate independently. Each library continues to choose and maintain its own collection of books, audios, videos and magazines as befits the unique needs of its community.

The advantage of CWMARS *is that all the card catalogs from all the participating libraries are together in one on-line location.*

This card catalog can be searched by any computer (i.e. at home, office or library) that is connected to the internet. Any item, be it a book, book on tape, video or CD, can be searched for by author, title, subject, or subject word. Any search of the CWMARS catalog can be focused to find an item at one specific library, or to search all libraries at once. For example, this will allow you to find out that Wendell may not own a particular item, but New Salem and Orange do. The CWMARS site lists the hours and phone number of all participating libraries. You can go to the owning library yourself, or you can call the Wendell library and have us get it through inter-library loan (ILL) for you.

If Wendell joins CWMARS we will be able to put an instant "hold" from the library's computer on almost any item in the CWMARS system. This instant hold technology is moving books through ILL much more quickly than before. (Currently Wendell uses a two-step system: (1) we request a book from the regional library; (2) the regional library requests the book for us from CWMARS.)

A CWMARS catalog search is simple. People already familiar with the internet will be able to use the catalog as easily as they search any other WEB-site. For those who do not use computers, a five-minute lesson is generally enough. And as with our current paper card catalog, the librarian is there to teach you how to search, or to do the search for you.

Joining CWMARS will make it possible for Wendell to finally maintain an up-to-date, complete card catalog. To maintain a paper card catalog (the kind we all grew up with), the librarian has to file three to six cards for every book added to, or permanently removed from, the collection. To add a book to the on-line catalog is a one entry process. The creation, filing and withdrawing of cards is done by the computer. Wendell, like most small libraries, scarcely has a functional paper card-catalog because of the amount of labor involved. In the past, large libraries devoted many hours of staff time to the tedious work of card filing.

A well-maintained, up-to-date card catalog (achievable for Wendell on-line at CWMARS) will give us much better access to the books and information in the books, on our own shelves. Having our card-catalog on CWMARS will also give people in other towns access to the unique materials in Wendell's collection.

The direct costs to Wendell for joining CWMARS will be $462 per year, plus the purchase of a pentium III computer and future computer updates as needed. (There is a grant available to pay staff time to enter our library's existing collection onto the CWMARS catalog.) The additional annual cost of running CWMARS is picked-up at the State level to even out the expense across the State. Other regions in Massachusetts have similar Web networks to the CWMARS system.

The purpose of publicly-held libraries is to support the needs in a democratic society for all citizens, rich or poor, by providing everyone with equal access to information and self-education. Joining and supporting a region-wide union of libraries (CWMARS) strengthens the role of libraries in society, and creates an effective means for resource-sharing.

COUNTERPOINT (opposed)
by Francis Doughty – Library Trustee, Chair

With thanks to many people, most especially Rosie, the library stands as a healthy and functioning component of our town.

After much conversation and thought, I come down as being opposed to more computerization at the library. My final opinion arises out of a stew that considers: appropriate library services, town money, the special character of our library, my own computer experiences, the character of Wendell, and gut instinct.

I am not so much "opposed" to computer changes at the library, as I am in favor of preserving much about the way the library functions now – certain aspects and qualities that "fit" our town.

We have a single computer (with internet hook-up) currently in the library, and it offers us a kind of *compromise position*, while still preserving much of the library's cherished rural Wendell character. It could be argued that we now have the best of both worlds: sufficient computer and non-computer services. We currently have a computer (with printer) which provides good services, as well as the many manual (non-computer and many non-electric) systems in place, all of which also provide good services to patrons.

Our one computer provides unlimited internet access, and access to view, search and research all of the online card catalogs in our region. Our computer is also an aid to using the ILL system, as it allows a patron (or librarian) to fine-tune their search for materials not in our library. This is all in place and functioning now at the library, and at no extra cost to the town.

The library leaders in the region are seducing and selling us on more computerization with increased fees. "Information technology" is all the rage. It's prudent to take a few steps back from the din and rush of it all, and to look at some of the details:

- This is a choice, not a mandate. Each library can choose whether or not to participate by putting their card catalog online, and pay for the new computer services.
  - (It's noteworthy that a few other small rural libraries have decided NOT to join-up, to forgo this move.)
- Money. There is a price-tag and if you exclude the state subsidy, it's not cheap. The online services come in at a price tag of about $2,000 per year. That price however is subsidized (for 3 years right now) by the state, so that our annual portion would be $462.

  It's important to reveal the actual price, because it is likely that that price will go up. Right now, the state subsidy is large, but it is only for 3 years. After that, will the subsidy change, remain the same, increase, reduce, or disappear?
- Also, we would be asking more money from the town to purchase a second computer (with accessories), (est. $1,300).

(A personal aside: I have used computers extensively in my own job for the past twenty years, and have arrived at an admittedly love-hate attitude toward it. A computer is a tool, indeed a great tool for many things, and yes it can make some hard tasks easier. It has made nice openings and connections for me, where I may not have had them. Yet, without question, it is far from being a necessity to life. The non- and pre-computer modes of interaction, communication and productivity continue to work, and sometimes to prevail. (The pursuit of happiness does not require a computer.))

It's appropriate and fair to mention some of the negatives and other baggage that computers bring along: an increase on electricity-demand base (e.g., more electric demand = more air pollution); environmental impacts; health concerns and hazards (e.g., cathode-ray-tube emissions, human stress, carpal tunnel problems). Studies have proven that computers don't create a "paperless office", but in fact contribute to a greater use of paper, along with the long sad list of environmental negatives which produce paper. A computer ages quickly and needs to be upgraded or replaced in a few years. Other things that come to mind include the usual suspects: repairs, printers (and parts), toner, maintenance contracts, electricity costs, various power outages, files getting lost, hang-ups, computer viruses, printer-paper jams, new software (documentation, training courses), a host of computer glitches, slow-downs, and similar problems.

Finally there is ongoing and inevitable parade of technological "improvements" which encourage us down the endlessly slippery slope of "throw-away and buy new."

Cont on pg 14

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Library Computerization ?

cont. from pg. 13

If we make this choice, we commit to such a world, leaving another behind. And with the good, we have to take some of the bad. The bad characteristics are very real, and they typically become manifest as tensions, frustrations, disappointments – not the kind of negative energy which would be welcome in our small library.

So, I think it's prudent to hold on to what we have, to let this offer pass, and stay functioning as we are. We have many online services. We have a healthy and functioning ILL system. And a paper card catalog that is half-finished, and thus half-functional. Forgoing this route does not make a library obsolete, unfunctional or unsupported. Our card catalog would not be available on-line, yet we would still remain viably connectd to the extensive library systems in our region, participating in and enjoying the benefits, services and programs.

Using standard sales rhetoric, the new online systems are touted, while the "other brand" is denigrated. The other brand in this case being "paper card catalogs" – the very systems that have worked well and been utilized in all libraries for decades. It strikes me as disrepectful to disparage the paper card catalog systems which have proven their stability and usefullness over so many years and literally for millions of people. In fact the paper card-catalogs can, and are, still being used as a reliable system for search and information. (Our own card catalog, which is functional but incomplete, exists as a result of a lot of good work, and will require an equal or greater amount of effort and money to complete. Online systems are arguably better and certainly more far-ranging in their connections with other librariers, but the paper system is still a viable, relevant and useful set-up.)

While the computer may make some characteristics of a librarian's work easier and quicker, the net result, in my opinion, will be an increased workload (computers provide more access, and more access equals more work) – a new set of tasks (and new problems), and more consumption of a variety of resources.

It's sad to think this, but I fear that both a second computer, and the move to these online services could very likely result in a loss of something precious in our library. A change in the atmosphere, and a lessening of affections. Will our librarians and patrons start looking more at machines, and less at books and words on paper and one another?

Information technology may be all the rage, but this community and the quiet rural qualities of Wendell possess a kind of rugged strength – a steadfast context – against which the latest trend, or "improvement" or life-enhancing benefit is often revealed in diminished form, as being over-rated or superfluous, or simply out of place here.

On so many fronts, our town is not afraid of being distinct, different from the main-stream, in the minority. Do we need to jump on the information technology train? Does it fit the scale and size of our town? Can we afford it? My answer is no to all of these. And beyond money matters, will we ultimately lose something spiritual, or lose a piece of Wendell? I fear so.

Closing. I seem to go around a large circle, trying different angles and lighting, and am slightly surprised to arrive at where I started. I stir all of these things together and in the end feel that the library is at a perilous turn in the road. It's a steep slide and looks hard to turn back from, it looks risky, and I can't make myself go forward.

It appears that computerization will make some things easier, but most things more complicated, more costly, possibly even more environmentally destructive (and humanly unhealthy). It promises to make more connections, to increase speed and maybe productivity. Yet it looks less like Wendell, and more like some other place. Something more instinctual than thoughtful informs me that it doesn't feel right; it's not us. And so I don't want us to spend the money and our efforts in this way. It's neither required nor necessary. It's just an arbitrary choice.

Why let go of something that we like, that works (though not perfectly), is familiar, comfortable and feels appropriately-sized, something that we have now and can afford, something that we may regret losing, when we don't have to?

SEE THE WENDELL MEETINGHOUSE STRUCTURAL REPORT AT THE WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

In order to evaluate the existing condition and structural health of The Wendell Meetinghouse, a report was written last fall to help identify and prioritize significant structural problems and possible solutions for how to heal the building. The report was based on notes and photographs from an inspection done by Jerry Eide whose business specializes in preserving historic buildings.

Al MacIntire used his creativity and extraordinary computer skills to layout the report into an attractive, and easy-to-read picture book. Al made several copies, which may be borrowed from the Wendell Free Library by any one who wishes to see it.

This report will be very helpful in preserving this living piece of history. As Molly Kaynor points out in the introduction, "besides being a classic component of our New England common, The Wendell Meetinghouse still stands proudly as a 155 year old grandparent to our town with stories to tell of this community's past. It is important to preserve this treasure of ours so that it may continue to serve as our community's Meetinghouse for more centuries to come!"

CLEARWATER LIBERTY IS NEW ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

In the Fall of 2000 the Wendell Library trustees hired Clearwater Liberty of Locksvillage Hill Rd., to the new position of assistant librarian. No extra hours have been added to the library staffing. The 20 hours per week that is spent running the library is now split between Rosie Heidkamp and Clearwater Liberty.

At the time she was hired, Clearwater had been volunteering at the library for about a year although often behind the scenes helping to get new books ready for the shelves and maintaining the card catalog. She has been a long time, frequent user of the Wendell Library and is an avid reader. Besides here love of books she brings to the position great organizing skills. For years Clearwater has been the consistent force behind the Wendell Free Box Committee that every week maintains the mountain of clothes dropped off there.

Clearwater staffs the library on Wednesday evening and on Saturday. She has begun attend courses offered by The Western Mass Regional Library System in various areas of library skills. It is a delight having her energy and enthusiasm on board. Collectively, along with the terrific volunteers and the library trustees, we hope to provide you with good basic library services.

Rosie Heidkamp
LIBRARIAN

Tales of a Country Store

Did you enter Wendell and remember that the kids have a field trip and need sandwiches tomorrow? The Wendell country store has BREAD! The Pepperidge farm bread comes in on Tuesday afternoons.
Someone from the store drives down into Millers Falls and picks it up so sliced bread is available!
There is also a lovely assortment of whole loaf breads from the Petersham Bread Company such as oatmeal and multi-grain and French bread just waiting to be transformed into tonight's garlic bread!
More than your daily bread, you will find good company at the Wendell country store If you work outside of the "Village", as many of Wendellians sometimes call their berg, it's a great place to grab a cup of coffee (Organic!) and schmooze with your neighbors about the days goings on.
Did you know that if you buy five pints of Bart's ice cream you get your sixth one FREE? The punch cards are on the register. If you want stuff like bread and ice cream and broccoli, etc. to be there when you want it, you gotta buy it on a regular basis. Plain and simple the delivery folks wont come up our way, and WCS workers and community members are making produce, bread and other pick ups so they are there for our collective convenience
Its nice to know, in this accelerated time of chain stores and malls, that "mom and pop" stores are still alive and well. Stop in, have a cup, and enjoy some yummy baked goodies while you are there.
Roving Reporter Mez Ziemba signing out.....

We've Been in the Kitchen
at the
Diemand Farm
Come visit our newly remodeled store
featuring homemade products:
Turkey Pot Pies * Quiche * Sliced Turkey and Gravy
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Eggs and lots more !
We've been cooking up something good for you!
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ALL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Saturday, December 2, 2000

Present: Ted Lewis, Christine Heard, Katharine Bentley, Select Board; Gloria Kegeles, Margaret Paddock, Janee Stone, Board of Health; Mary McBride, Charles Bowes, Assessors; Ken Holmberg, Planning Board and Clerk for Assessors; Michael Flanagan, Shirley White, Marianne Sundell, Bob Shulman, Planning Board; Nancy Reibschlaeger, Accountant; Penny Delorey, Tax Collector; Phil Delorey, Building Inspector, School Committee Member and Member of Wendell Regionalization Committee; Mason Phelps, Associate Member of Conservation Commission; Glen Ayers, Board of Health Agent.

Meeting opened at 9:00 a.m. Minutes from previous meeting were handed out for review as well as information sheets from Planning Board regarding Open Space Plan update. Agenda was set: Zoning Bylaw/Building Code enforcement; Open Space Plan update; Regionalization Committee update.

Christine Heard and Phil Delorey have written a letter to townspeople regarding the Towns effort to use gentle consistencyin enforcement of the zoning bylaw and the building code. Christine Heard has submitted the same as an article for the next Wendell Post.

The issue of allowing use of outhouses/privies was discussed. It was felt that this is a sensitive problem, as Title V septic laws are very costly to implement. Gloria Kegeles felt the Board of Health would be hesitant to go after people with outhouses. She explained that the BOH has discretion in allowing current functioning outhouses and/or new ones. It was agreed that the goal was to consistently apply all current laws and regulations for all townspeople.

The Planning Board said they have been busy with revising the cell tower bylaw and have not had the opportunity to discuss clarification of the zoning bylaw article about junk. They hope to be able to take up that issue before the next All Board Meeting.

Concern was expressed about how and when building permit and certificate of occupancy information is passed to and then utilized by the Assessors. Concerns were raised that some building permits do not result in increased assessment, when Certificates of Occupancy are not sought, but the space is lived in. The Assessors agreed to present a plan for how assessments are updated using information from the Building Inspector. They also agreed to provide a time line for when assessments will be raised in relation to outstanding building permits, trying to account for both ongoing construction and incomplete buildings that are inhabited. Again, it was agreed that a fair and consistent system needs to be in place.

Phil Delorey reported that the Regionalization Committee has been meeting with other regional school districts (Amherst-Pelham Regional and Pioneer Valley Regional) and with other towns Regionalization Committees (Erving and New Salem). The Regionalization Committee is due to report to the town at the Annual Town Meeting. However, Wendell townspeople will vote in January/February to approve or disapprove Mahar Regional Schools plans for a renovation/building project. On Saturday, December 9, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall the Regionalization Committee has scheduled an open meeting to provide information to and get feedback from the community about this process.

Updating Wendells Open Space Plan was discussed as the first step towards applying for grant monies. Marianne Sundell stressed the need for quick action to develop a new Open Space Plan because of ongoing negotiations between Chickadees, Inc., a private group seeking to buy Fiske Pond, and Mt. Grace Land Trust who could assume a conservation restriction on 100+ acres of land at Fiske Pond. The Select Board is supporting an update of the Open Space Plan by the Conservation Commission, but has not made any decisions or recommendations to the town about options for Fiske Pond.

Marianne explained that a Master Plan, which has been mandated by the State, is a different, more comprehensive and long range plan that could guide zoning changes and development in town. The Planning Board has not yet decided if a Master Plan is really necessary for Wendell.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the Senior Center.
Respectfully submitted,
Penny Delorey & Christine Heard

WENDELL ALL BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
Saturday, February 3, 2001

Present: Ted Lewis, Christine Heard, Katharine Bentley, Select Board; Gloria Kegeles, Margaret Paddock, Janee Stone, Board of Health; Jennifer Carpenter, Clerk for Board of Health; Mary McBride, Board of Assessors; Ken Holmberg, Planning Board and Clerk for Assessors; Marianne Sundell, Bob Shulman, Planning Board; Nancy Reibschlaeger, Accountant; Penny Delorey, Tax Collector; Phil Delorey, Building Inspector, School Committee Member and Member of Wendell Regionalization Committee; Chris Ewell, School Committee; Harry Williston, Road Commission.

Meeting opened at 9:15 a.m. Minutes from previous meeting were corrected. Agenda was set: Zoning Bylaw/Building Code enforcement; Assessors process.

Ted Lewis briefly explained what had been accomplished at the two previous meetings.

Phil Delorey clarified that he has been operating as Building Inspector following the procedures set by previous building inspectors in Wendell.

Phil also stated that he feels that boxcars/tractor trailers and school buses are over-the-road vehicles and should not be used for storage. But our bylaws do not deal with this issue at all.

Gloria Kegeles expressed concern that town government is pursuing this initiative of enforcing bylaws and the building code, when town buildings themselves do not comply. She thinks it is hypocritical to do so.

Christine Heard responded by explaining the history of this initiative, observing that all present at the first meeting had agreed to it. She and Ted Lewis explained that although some town buildings are non-compliant, various committees are working to bring them into compliance (Town Hall Septic Advisory Committee and the newly formed Town Office Building Advisory Committee).

Ken Holmberg said that a Master Plan as a big project that requires a lot of time and energy on the Planning Boards part. He also explained that some older buildings are exempt (grandfathered) from 1989 zoning bylaw, but that he believes new construction should comply with our zoning bylaw.

Katharine Bentley explained that enforcing compliance will broaden our tax base.

Discussion followed about assessment procedures, especially about how often an on-the-ground assessment of every home in Wendell is required and how often it takes place. Phil Delorey and the Assessors agreed to meet before our next meeting to discuss assessments on new construction. They will report back.

Ken Holmberg reported that the Assessors had a 50% return on the personal property forms that was sent out a year ago. However, the Assessors have not had time to follow up on the information provided in the forms.

The issue of keeping Wendell citizens informed of the initiative proposed by this group was brought up. The group was reminded that Phil Delorey and Christine Heard had submitted an article to the last Wendell Post summarizing what is happening. Since word of mouth is another good way to keep people informed, all present were encouraged to talk about the initiative with their friends and neighbors.

Phil Delorey proposed a public forum for four purposes:
a new zoning bylaw to provide for regulation for accessory (temporary storage) structures and to clarify junk clarification of local control versus state mandates for the assessment procedure
compliance with health code and the building code
community development /long range plans/ Master Plan

Marianne Sundell said that the $30,000 planning grant that will be available to the town under Executive Order 418 will facilitate public input including the use of a professional facilitator. The development of a Master Plan will also involve public input.

It was agreed that several of the points mentioned by Phil (new bylaw and Master Plan development) will involve public input in the required process. Public input for assessment procedures can be sought, after Phil and the Assessors have a proposal ready. Compliance with health and building codes is required and not a subject for public debate.

Ken Holmberg stated that the Board of Assessors is overwhelmed with paperwork. He believes the Assessors should consider hiring a different professional appraiser, as the current appraiser, Roy Bishop, does a very quick assessment. Ken pointed out the new construction at Lake Grove School will provide more revenue for the town.

It was noted that buildings smaller than 10 x 12 are not taxable as real estate. Temporary/accessory structures are taxable as personal property, not real estate.

Phil Delorey offered to bring a proposal clarifying junk and dealing with temporary structures to the next meeting.

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All Boards cont. from pg. 15

Harry Williston reported that the new fee schedule at the WRATS is working out, but that new things take time. A new employee for the WRATS will be hired in the spring.

Chris Ewell reported that there are no problems at Swift River School. In answer to a query, Christine Heard indicated that there is some room for growth in the population at Swift River School.

Janee Stone introduced the new clerk for the Board of Health, Jennifer Carpenter; the BOH hopes she will help them with their overwhelming paperwork. Janee also asked if it would be possible to provide voice mail for the BOH, as she has been receiving harassing phone calls at her home. Gloria Kegeles reported that the BOH has spoken about, but not yet developed a code for privies/outhouses. State regulations do allow for privies.

The Planning Board listed the issues they have on their agenda: development of a Master Plan large development review for potential construction on West Street ongoing cell phone tower reviews work with Phil Delorey on regulation of temporary structures, boxcars/tractor trailers, and junk Planning Board members indicated they need a clerk to help them with paperwork; perhaps they could share a clerk with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Jennirer Carpenter reported that the Town Clerk, Annie Hartjens, had asked her to help with Town Clerk paperwork.

Jenn also reported about the Friends of the Meeting House, a private group that has been formed. The Friends are trying to become a non-profit organization. The groups agreed-upon goal is to restore and maintain the building. But they must resolve the issue of the current religious-based ownership. The Friends consist of three different groups: those who want to maintain a religious/spiritual use of the Meeting House; those interested in a historical/preservation use; those with other ideas.

Nancy Reibschlaeger reported about the DB Landfill. The appeal by DB of the DEPs order of payment /responsibility is going forward. It is unclear if the landfill itself is still moving. DB is still responsible for completing the closure of the landfill. Katharine Bentley applauded Nancys efforts on this issue.

It was reported that the Wendell Post is seeking new volunteers to help produce the paper.

The next meeting was sent for Saturday, April 7, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. in the Senior Center. The Finance Committee and the Zoning Board of Appeals will be invited to the next meeting. Katharine Bentley wants to discuss at the next meeting a mailing list and postage costs to keep townspeople informed.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Heard

Memoir vs. Autobiographical Fiction
A Three Part Series
with the Authors
in May

A couple of years ago Marcia Gagliardi, the owner of Haleys Publishing in Athol, facilitated a three evening poetry series at the Wendell Free Library that was extremely successful. The series was attended by about fifteen Wendell residents cozied into our little library meeting space. Along with Marcia came three local poets published by Haleys, to read and discuss their work and the making of poetry in general.

Now Marcia is going to join us again; this time her series will be based on memoir vs. autobiographical fiction. Participants will be asked to read the works of two local authors, Jay Kendall and Jim Willis. Jay Kendall teaches at Mahar High School. His book called The Secret Keepers, evokes the placid existence in rural Vermont just before and during WWII. Jim Willis, is a minister and musician living in New Salem. His book, Journey Home, describes the inner life of a long distance bicycle rider. The authors will discuss their work and the process of writing.

The series will be held on Monday May 7th, Monday May 21st and Monday May 28th at the library from 7-9pm. Copies of the authors' books will be provided. Space is limited, so sign up soon by dropping by or calling the library at 544-3559. Or call Rosie at home, 544-8457. Funding for this program is provided by the Wendell Cultural Council.

Rosie Heidkamp

I came across this piece by Paul Harvey, and wanted to share it with other readers. –Francis Doughty

What's mainly wrong with society
today is that too many
Dirt Roads have been paved.
There's not a problem
in America today, crime, drugs,
education, divorce, delinquency
that wouldn't be remedied,
if we just had more Dirt Roads,
because Dirt Roads give character.

People that live at the end of
Dirt Roads learn early on that
life is a bumpy ride.
That it can jar you right down to your
teeth sometimes, but it's worth it,
if at the end is home... a loving spouse,
happy kids and a dog.
We wouldn't have near the trouble
with our educational system if our kids
got their exercise walking a Dirt Road
with other kids, from whom they learn
how to get along.

There was less crime in our streets
before they were paved.
Criminals didn't walk two
dusty miles to rob or rape,
if they knew they'd be
welcomed by 5 barking dogs
and a double barrel shotgun.
And there were no
drive by shootings.
Our values were better
when our roads were worse!
People did not worship their
cars more than their kids,
and motorists were more courteous,
they didn't tailgate
by riding the bumper or
the guy in front would choke
you with dust & bust your
windshield with rocks.

Dirt Roads taught patience.
Dirt Roads were
environmentally friendly,
you didn't hop in your car
for a quart of milk you walked
to the barn for your milk.
For your mail,
you walked to the mail box.
What if it rained and
the Dirt Road got washed out?
That was the best part,
then you stayed home and
had some family time,
roasted marshmallows and
popped popcorn
and pony rode on Daddy's shoulders
and learned how to make
prettier quilts than anybody.
At the end of Dirt Roads,
you soon learned that
bad words tasted like soap.

Most paved roads lead to trouble,
Dirt Roads more likely
lead to a fishing creek or
a swimming hole.
At the end of a Dirt Road,
the only time we even locked
our car was in August,
because if we didn't some
neighbor would fill it
with too much zucchini.
At the end of a Dirt Road,
there was always extra
springtime income,
from when city dudes would
get stuck, you'd have to
hitch up a team and pull them out.
Usually you got a dollar...
always you got a new friend...

at the end of a Dirt Road.

(I still love you, Annie!)

Dreams Come True in Wendell

by Nini Melvin

This May will make six years since I moved to Wendell. I lived in New York City for fifteen years, then in Plainfield, Mass. for five months. I had never heard of Wendell, but was given the phone number of Judy who had a "unique" house for sale. When I arrived I was charmed by the country store and the diversity of products, including creations from local artists. When Judy guided me to the house I had a strange feeling that this was the place I had been dreaming about for years. I knew that I had found home.

What I didn't know was that I had landed in the most amazing community. People here express care and concern for each other and for the environment. I feel blessed to be part of this community. Many wonderful experiences have shown me that this is a town of manifesting miracles. I believe that the magic is generated by guidance from the natural world.

In Wendell, there is an openness to the great mysteries of life: the unprovable, unknowable, and unfathomable. For a long time I have dreamed of creating a healing center. One day, Claudia Scully (one of Wendell's miraculous treasures) called me to share the guidance she received about putting a healing center at Fiske Pond. I had trouble imagining that it could be possible. How can we base dreams on that which we don't know?
Faith.....guidance.....trust .....Magic happens.....

Dreams can become reality! January 9th, 2001 the land was transferred into our hands (thanks especially to Claudia's dedication to protecting this land).

The vision is to co-create a beautiful, round teaching space for people to align themselves with personal and planetary healing, wholeness and balance. We will honor natural law, with respect and reverence for all life. Each season helps us align our inner and outer landscapes. We are guided by the five elemental phases of water, wood, fire, earth, and air/metal. Each phase mirrors to us where we are in our journey and the balance of the cycles as a whole. We remember our wholeness through awakening deep listening, and take action according to these inner messages.
Listen...Follow...Listen.... Follow.....Our focus is for all to access self healing.

New owners of the Fiske Pond property in Wendell area, Nini Melvin and Claudia Scully with Sancho the dog, are seen on the dam with pond in background. The [illegible], directors for Chickadees Retreat, envision a healing center on the property.

Recorder/Paul Franz

Each day will be a flow of activities, nourishing body mind and spirit. Our programs will include environmental education. Paul Godfrey has enhanced our project with amazing maps of the endangered species and wildlife habitats on the land. We also envision expressive arts programs for kids, teens and adults. Wendell is blessed with knowledgeable, talented people who can share ideas and wisdom.

Practitioners will create a team to empower people to take the next steps on their healing journey through classes and one to one healing sessions. There will also be "intensive" trainings. These may be a one day, weekend or week long format. We will develop a training program that will blend the gifts of the practitioners and facilitators into a comprehensive, holistic health program. There will be advanced training seminars for practitioners of all healing modalities. This will be fertile territory for miraculous co-creations, discoveries and potentials not yet imaginable.

During the next years we will build environmentally compatible retreat structures. This will be an opportunity to share skills on how to build energy efficiently, without destroying the natural balance. The spaces themselves will promote good health and healing. The center will be accessible both physically and financially.

The land at Fiske Pond is in need of protection and healing. We Wendellites can make it happen. It offers an abundance of opportunities and awakenings. Through our daily practices we can become more present, perceptive and respectful. We remember how each intricate part is an essential piece of the whole delicate web. Our soul's journey unfolds as we remember our integral part.

Keep your eyes on the bulletin boards for Chickadees Retreat programs, including an Earth Day celebration on April 22nd! Thank you wonderful Wendell ones who help make it all possible! Thank you Claudia!

Nini Melvin is a PresenTouch practioner, which she created by combining dance, shiatsu, and the interrelationship between Mother Nature and human nature. Nini trains practitioners and instructors, and facilitates workshops internationally.

Open Space

Last fall Wendell began the process of updating our Open Space and Recreation Plan with the help of FRCOG Planner Bill Labich. The Town received a grant for this project thanks to the efforts of FRCOG Planning Director Peggy Sloan, who was concerned that towns in Eastern Franklin County will be facing increasing development pressures. Coincidentally, this grant became available to us at the same time that Chickadees Inc. was preparing to purchase Fiske Pond and approached the Town about taking steps to permanently protect this land and make it available as a public recreation area. In order to get assistance from the state for this project, we must first update our Open Space and Recreation Plan. Last fall a seed Open Space Committee formed to begin the project. While the situation at Fiske pond helped to propel us into action, the planning process will consider the Town as a whole and will be valuable whether or not we choose to get involved in the Fiske Pond project.

The committee assisted in preparing a questionnaire, which was mailed to residents and property owners earlier this year. Charles Smith volunteered to Chair the committee, and Nancy Riebschlaeger has been working hard on administrative details concerning the project. After the results were tabulated, Bill wrote a first draft of the goals section of the plan. The committee came up with a list of about fifty people with a wide variety of concerns and viewpoints. The draft was mailed to these people along with an invitation to join the Open Space and Recreation Committee or offer comments if they are unable to attend meetings. Bill we then re-write the goals to incorporate public input. We will have several meetings, each to review a separate section of the plan.

While we cannot mail copies of the draft to all Wendell residents, we are hoping to get input from as many people as possible. The meetings are posted, and there is a copy of the draft goals at the library. Everybody is encouraged to read the drafts and offer feedback. If you have comments and are unable to attend the meetings, please take them to the Open Space and Recreation Plan box. It is located at the Town Hall in the alcove near the front door.

Marianne Sundell

RONZO'S BISTRO
Restaurant Bar
199 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344
(Rte 2A on Erving/Orange town line)
978-544-1818 fax: 978-544-5268

After two hours of discussion on the evening of Wednesday January 31, 2001, the town approved by almost unanimous voice vote a measure to borrow our share of $29 million for rebuilding and renovating Mahar Regional high school. Another vote on Monday February 5 approved the debt exclusion entailed in the proposal. In order to be assured of 84% funding from the state, preliminary plans have to be in state offices by March 1, and in order to pay for the preliminary plans approval was necessary on the night of the meeting. Final plans must be in state offices by June 1. The evening began with the architect and school committee describing tentative plans, slanted metal roofs and separating the high school from the middle school. A motion was made to separate the debt exclusion required by proposition 2 1/2 from the rest of the article so that if the main article were passed at this meeting, that decision could not be overturned on Feb 5 by people who failed to attend the Wednesday night meeting. It was argued that changing the content of the main article on the warrant might be illegal, and stopped by the attorney general; others said that interpretation meant that no article at any town meeting could be amended. The motion passed. The consequence of approving the project and not approving the debt exclusion was discussed: Wendell would be required to short change the rest of its operations for the duration of loan payments. There were speeches in support of the measure. One former member of the school committee said that 24 years ago his committee recommended a renovation which was not approved. The need was great then and greater now not only for the physical needs of the building, but because the educational requirements of our society are more dependent on the technological ability of its graduating labor force. Concerns were raised also. A motion was made to table the article, but the moderator said that would effectively kill it, and the motion failed. A motion was made for a paper ballot, and there was an immediate vocal objection, citing both the time required to distribute paper and pencils to over 100 citizens, and the experience of November demonstrating the ambiguity surrounding paper ballots. The paper ballot initiative was voted down in spite of a Wendell tradition that such a request would automatically be honored. At 9:15 we voted on article on and approved borrowing $29 million for the reconstruction and renovation of Mahar. With the debt exclusion, taxes rates will go up $1.07/$1,000 valuation for the first 4 years, and $0.57/$1,000 for the remainder of the loan.

Articles 2 through 6 concerning special education expenses were passed over as recommended by the moderator. Article 7 was to remove language about health concerns from the town bylaw on the siting of cell phone towers. One side argued that health concerns are not allowed by the FCC in their regulations for towns regulating the towers so removing that language might give the town more control over tower siting. The opposing view was that we should write our laws according to the way we see the world, and not necessarily according the requirements of the FCC. The measure to remove words relating to health effects passed by voice Vote. After the meeting, I arrived home at 9:45 and discovered that I had forgotten to turn down the crock-pot. Even softened with water, dinner tasted like it had been cooked on a blowtorch. Small price. Josh

BY /Heinemann

WENDELL OLD HOME DAY WILL BE AUGUST 11, 2001. COME ONE COME ALL!!!!! Anyone wishing to help, call Karen Copeland at 544-7352 or Anne Diemand at 544-6111.

RE-STARTING THE TOWN COMMON IMPROVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Town Common Improvement Advisory Committee is being reactivated. We're putting the call out to interested new members and prior members alike. (Prior members will be invited by mail.)

The Committee will be open to receive input and comments from townspeople and will then make advisory recommendations to the Selectboard. If any isssues raise strong or divided feelings, the committee will recommend that decisions be determined by vote at a town meeting.

Issues of concern include:

1. Commemorative War Memorials
Volunteer work (with funds) is underway to create memorials for Korean and Vietnam veterans. How should the new memorials be designed? Should the new memorials be placed alongside the existing memorials (currently in front of the Library)? Or should the current memorial millstones be removed from the Library and placed in another spot on the Town Common?

2. Benches on the Common
Design issues: What kind of benches do we want? Where should they placed? How many should we ultimately have? At what rate should new ones be placed on the common (e.g. one per year, etc.)?

3. Plantings of trees, shrubs, etc. on the town Common. Similar questions and topics for discussion.

4. Working on a Master Plan for our town Common.

If you are interested in being on this committee, please call the Town Office at 544-3395. Meeting dates will be posted and anyone in town who is interested is encouraged to attend.

YOU CAN'T SHAKE HANDS WITH A CLENCHED FIST

WHAT'S HAPPENING (CLUB)

The Wendell Police Department has been brainstorming about activities that we can involve the townspeople with the police officers. As members of the Community Policing Steering Committee we have funds available to us for events and activities. Some of the things we already sponsor are: The Wendell Litter Pickup Day, The Boxing Class (with Trooper Benoit), Self-Defense classes, school and speeding at Swift River, bulb planting on the Town Common and many other activities.

DIA DHUIT (hello in Irish)
Celebrate Ireland at Swift River School

Swift River School just completed its 10th anniversary of Celebrate Diversity by celebrating Ireland! This 5 week immersion of Swift River School in the study of Ireland brought the usual excitement and fascinating array of cultural activities to the school. Using tin, watercolors, penny whistles and the bodhram (small drum) the students have explored Irish arts.

An Irish Cèile (festival) rook place at Swift River School on February 14th and 15th. This culmination of our all-school Celebrate Ireland program was a brilliant success! This is the tenth year of the Celebrate Diversity program at Swift River School, and each year our final event is more impressive and thoughtful.

Our children, staff, artists and many members of the community worked very hard this winter to immerse our students in a study of the Irish people through art, literature, geography, science and history. At the Ceile, one could find thoughtful, computer presentations (using Power Point) on family histories and immigration as well as good Irish food (soda bread and colcannon) created by the children in grades 3/4. Leprechaun stories from grades 1/2 were filled with imagination, and their grand castles were mathematical wonders. Kindergarten displayed its wee people puppets and weaving. Even Preschool joined in the fun with endearing story boxes featuring handmade sheep. Grades 5/6 regaled the community with theater about the Troubles (past and present), Irish folk art, fairy tales and history. Beautiful stained glass mobiles based on ancient stained glass motifs, druid Celtic knots, and hand made tin toys filled the Ceile with color and beauty. Linda Ruel Flynn and Sally Alley Muffin Stuffin supplied their incredible artistic leadership with the children and Susan Ward assisted with computer technology. Ed Hines led the children in step dancing and penny whistle performances.

The program was documented in digital video and photography by a team of fifth and six grade students. The kitchen staff prepared a wonderful Irish meal featuring Irish stew and soda bread. The Swift River PTCA sponsored a delicious, potluck dinner at the end of Celebrate Ireland.

Many new friends shared their artistic talents and their insights and experiences about Irish life past and present with the students. Bernie McCarthy talked about her life in Ireland; Katie Regan shared her step dancing skills; Catherine Shannon spoke about Irish history. Rosemary and Jenny Caine, a mother daughter duo, played lively Irish music on their harps; Marcus Fisher's photography decorated our halls and then the Cèile! Sharon Kennedy dramatized the life of an Irish-American mill girl in Lowell; and the Bold Fenian Men with John T. McKenna set our toes tapping and our hearts racing with their Irish music. Many people helped bring this program to life including staff people, parents, and students. Erin Williams, Program Director, brought it all together from gathering funding to finding the Irish and Irish-Americans artists to organizing the Ceile. Congratulations and thank you, Erin, for making the tenth celebration better than ever.

Celebrate Diversity is funded in part by the New Salem Academy, the Wendell and New Salem Cultural Councils, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency; the Swift River PTCA, the Wendell Community Policing Steering Committee, and many great people just like you!

by Erin Williams and Christine Heard

"WHEN I FOCUS ON HOW I CAN BE USEFUL AND HELPFUL, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT FAILURE"

This year we are doing many of the above and also sponsoring a sunset concert with the Outerspace Band on Old Home Day. We are interested in finding out what townspeople would like to do. Is there an interest in having events and activities sponsored by the police department? We have funds available to us. One idea we are kicking around is to have a fishing club. We can purchase equipment and licenses, things like that. If there is any interest, please call any of the officers in town to discuss your ideas and ours. This might be one of the things that could "humanize" not only the officers to the townspeople but the townspeople to the officers.

Annie Diemand

THE HUNT

by Rowan Bado

A lone tyrannosaurus stalks its prey: a sick triceratops. The heavy foot of triceratops hits the dust of its surroundings; a vast desert on the edge of a dying forest. The triceratops looks over the back of a tall dune, like its pursuer watching him. The massive bulk of triceratops is carried up the dune by its sturdy, robust legs, while the vengeful eyes of his pursuer watch him slowly die; tyrannosaurus knows that the old creature is too sickly to make it any further, and tyrannosaurus is ready to attack at the slightest notion of weakness in the triceratops's frail body. Tyrannosaurus waits in the undergrowth of the deathly forest... suddenly triceratops hears the scream of a small mammal; he turns his age old head in the direction of the queer sound: tyrannosaurus knows she has been spotted, and like a torrential wave of menacing lightning tyrannosaurus carries her huge, muscular body towards the triceratops like an avalanche chasing a beetle, and she is upon triceratops before it knows what's happening, and tyrannosaurus lands a ferocious kick on triceratops, knocking him flat. Triceratops tries to stand it's ground, but alas, is much too old to withstand more of his powerful rival's savage bloodlust, thus, triceratops falls to the awesome power of its opponent, and seconds later the once mighty triceratops's limp form lays in the dust, stripped of its life. The frightened cries of the forest around him fall on deaf ears...

KIDS CORNER

Interview with Rowan Bado: age 10, Checkerberry Lane, Wendell

When I asked my friend and neighbor Rowan what he likes about living in Wendell, here's what he told me," Everybody really knows each other. You can go to the Wendell Country Store and find a friend. It's a really friendly town and I feel comfortable in it." Rowan continued," I like living here because there's this great hill, "Andy Hamilton's hill"- he's nice enough to let us snowboard and sled down it... In Wendell, it's safe on the roads for skateboards and bicycles, not like in the city.

Favorite places in town for Rowan are the Wendell Free Library, the playground, and the Wendell Country Store.

This precocious lad recommends reading his current favorite author, Philip Pullman, whose writings include "The Golden Compass", "Subtle Knife", and "The Amber Spyglass", all available at our library. Rowan tells me that our Librarian, Rosie Heidkamp encouraged him with his research in paleoart, and that is his goal, to become a paleoartist! He offers with great enthusiasm, "There's always a new book to read at the Wendell Library!"

A fifth grade student at Swift River School, Rowan also likes the staff at the Wendell Country Store. "It says Wendell!"

A resident of Wendell all of his life, Rowan likes to bike down to the town playground. " It's a great place to get your energy out"! Rowan describes the playground as "the most colorful part of Wendell . " When you're there, the whole world shines down on you." "It's a good place to have a picnic!' Rowan lives with his mom, Jennifer Whitcomb, his dad, Charles Bado, and his brother, Jacob Bado, age 7. They have a small flock of chickens and an aquarium with unusual fish to observe and enjoy. Family excursions include canoeing, ice skating, and adventures to a secret pond called "Jacob's Pillow Cake Pond " .

Wild life sightings include: deer tracks, "tons of birds", blue jays, sparrows, robins, wrens and an occasional hawk.

With friends, Rowan goes outside, plays games or plays basketball.

Rowan Bado says "I would never really want to move, unless it's to another house in Wendell..." He describes his home town as a "homely" town, I think meaning "homey".

My friend Rowan tells me with sage wisdom, " Children learn where they live." I feel truly blessed to share Wendell with this incredible young man.

respectfully, Liz Ziemba

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Booklet 1 of 2 is now available in the Student Services Office at Mahar Regional School. This booklet lists many local scholarships and how to apply for them. Seniors, post graduates and students who reside in Mahar's district but do not attend Mahar should stop by and check the booklet to see which scholarships may apply to them and what the deadlines are. Booklet 2 will be available after February vacation.

Anyone wishing to make a scholarship available may do so by contacting Angela Kitzmiller at the Student Services Office at Mahar (978) 544-2542 between the hours of 8-3, Mon.-Fri.

Ralph C. Mahar Regional School
Honor Roll Report
*denotes High Honors

Grade 7
SueAnn N. Delorey
Stephanie M. Furnelli
Maya S. Perez*

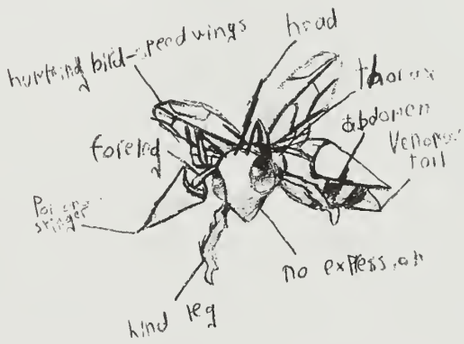
Grade 8
Vincent J. Barilla*
Miya L. Morimoto

Grade 9
Keri L. Ewell
Rebecca A. LaClaire
Ashley B. Manley
Kathryn L. Richard*

Grade 10
Ariel E. Barilla
Travis E. Boland
Jamie C. Cocco
Kimberly E. Manley*
Yuya J. Morimoto*
Dawn M. Walsh

Grade 11
David C. Ewell
Kelly J. Simon
Brendan P. Walsh
Tessa R. White-Diemand

Grade 12
Michelle L. Lowell*
Liam P. Walsh



Ralph C. Mahar Regional School
Honor Roll Report (2nd Quarter)
*denotes High Honor

Grade 7
Maya S. Perez

Grade 8
Vincent J. Barilla
Miya L. Morimoto

Grade 9
Keri L. Ewell
Rebecca A. LaClaire
Kathryn L. Richard*

Grade 10
Ariel E. Barilla
Travis E. Boland
Jamie C. Cocco
Susan A. Mangan
Kimberly E. Manley*
Yuya J. Morimoto*
Dawn M. Walsh

Grade 11
Ciji A. Murcell
Kelly J. Simon
Brendan P. Walsh
Tessa R. White-Diemand*

Grade 12
Michelle L. Lowell
Liam P. Walsh

Posting Place

WENDELL FIRE DEPARTMENT
BRUSH BURNING PERMITS

Brush burning starts at 10:00 A.M. and ends at 4:00 P.M. on days that are **not windy, or too dry.** The pile must be small enough to control at all times, and must be at least **75'** away from any structure. **It must be brush only!** All construction remnants, wood, lumber, etc. must be taken to the W.R.A.T.S. or disposed of in another way. Permits are good for two consecutive days, weather permitting. To apply, call 544-3500 and leave your name, the location that you are going to burn and your phone #. Thank you.

The Wendell Fire Department

LIBRARY RECEIVES BOOKS FOR CHILREN GRANT, LOCAL MATCH NEEDED

The Wendell Free Library is happy to announce that we are the recipient of a Libri Foundation Books for Children Grant written by Library Director Rosie Heidkamp and Library Trustee Karen Traub. The grant will match our contribution 2-1. This means that the $350 we put in will become $1,050. This will buy about 70 new children's books! Because young children's picture books get a lot of hard use by active hands, we will prioritize the revitalization of this part of the collection.

Shortly before her death, Wendell resident Beverly Trousdale donated $200 toward the children's collection, and we are thrilled that using it toward this grant will enhance the value of this generous gift.

Please consider making a donation to co-sponsor a book purchase, in order to help us raise the remaining $150. Make checks payable to "Friends of the Wendell Free Library", noting on the check; "Children's Books". You can send them to: Wendell Free Library, PO Box 236, Wendell, MA 01379, or stop by the Library to make your donation

WENDELL TOWN ELECTION
MAY 7
2001 CANDIDATES
***incumbant**

- 1 Selectboard member, 3 years
  - * Christine Heard
  - David Arsenault
- 1 Assessor, 3 years
  - * Marion Herrick
  - Dale Kowacki
- 1 Board of Health, 3 years
  - * Gloria Kegeles
- 1 Planning Board, 5 years
  - * Marianne Sundell (withdrawing)
  - Deiradre Cabral
- 1 Planning Board, 1 year
  - Robert Shulman
- 1 Moderator, 1 year
  - * Kathy-Ann Becker
- 1 Constable, 3 years
  - Anne M. Diemand
  - Andrew S. Hamilton
- 1 Cemetery Commissioner, 2 years
  - open
- 1 Road Commissioner, 3 years
  - * Harry Williston
  - Michael Gifford
- 2 School Committee members, 3 years
  - * Jean Forward
  - open
- 1 Tree Warden, 1 year
  - * Daniel Bacigalupo
  - John Davis
- 2 Library Trustees, 3 years
  - Laura Botkin
  - Mary Gifford
  - Ann Marie Meltzer
  - Kathy Swaim (write-in candidate)

Wendell Full Moon Coffee House

A great way to spend a Saturday night! Music! Dance! Cool People! Easy commute! Quality family entertainment at "time warp" prices. Always a Benefit, Delicious homemade baked goods, Dean's Beans Coffee! Open Mic at 7:30 PM, Main Act at 8:30 PM

Remaining shows on the 2000-2001 season calendar:

April 7, 2001
Out of Hand, the return of the eclectic and surreal Comedy Improvisational Troupe, with Wendell's own Court Dorsey. Not to be missed!
Benefit for **Good Neighbors**

May 5, 2001
Perry Howarth, amazing, raw, driving blues, with an all-star Wendell cast: Bob Rosser, Mark Cronin, Bob St. Germain, and Myron Becker
Benefit for **Enchanted Forest**

June 2, 2001
Brooks Williams, excellent Valley singer-songwriter guitarist
Benefit TBA

IT's
UNDER YOUR BED!
IT's
BETWEEN THE COUCH CUSHIONS!!
IT's
WAITING AT YOUR FRIEND'S HOUSE!!
IT's
TIME
TO RETURN ALL YOUR OVERDUE BOOKS
TO
THE WENDELL FREE LIBRARY!
(No FINES CHARGED)

14th Annual/Perennial
PLANT SWAP
SUNDAY MAY 20th
10AM-NOON
MIST OR SHINE
WENDELL COMMONS
(Rain date: Sun. May 27th)
It is not too late
to start a tray of seedlings!
Trade a plant with a neighbor. Bring a friend. Celebrate our love of gardening. Info: 544-8457

STATE POLICE BOXING CLASS COMES TO WENDELL – AGAIN!!

In the spring of 1998, Trooper Bob Benoit and Sgt. Kevin Hope of the Mass. State Police came to Wendell as part of a community-policing program and taught a six-week class. There were over a dozen residents that took part in learning this sport. Ages ranged from 14 to 60, both male and female. It was quite an experience for all.

The State Police and the Wendell Community Policing Committee are happy to announce Trooper Benoit and Sgt. Hope will teach another boxing class. The class will be five weeks starting on Monday, April 9 and then will change to Tuesdays, April 17 and 24, May 1 and 8. We are hoping to have the town hall but the location hasn't been firmed up yet.

Anyone wishing to participate please call Anne Diemand at 544-6111 or Trooper Benoit at 1-508-867-2912. Each participate will need hand wraps and a tooth guard.

A.D.

SELF DEFENSE for WOMEN and TEENAGE GIRLS

The Wendell Police Department has scheduled a self-defense class for women and teenage girls. This class will be held at Swift River School on May 1, 2, 7 and 8 from 6 – 9:30 p.m. We are using part of our community-policing grant to pay for the class. R.A.D. (rape and aggression defense) instructors will teach the class. This class was held two years ago and it was a very powerful learning experience for all that partook in it.

We are interested in sponsoring self-defense classes for children and men if there is enough interest.

Anyone interested in more information please call Anne Diemand at 544-6111. Pre-registration is required.

A.D.

COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS

Some other Community Policing programs I have been working on are:

A tag sale opens to members of Wendell on the town common to be held the first weekend in June. We sponsored this event last spring and it was a success for all that sold there. We charge $5 for the space and we do the advertising. It was fun to get rid of things we no longer wanted, making a few dollars and finding some treasures that our neighbors no longer had a need for. Please consider being a vendor in this town tag sale. Spring is coming and it's a great incentive to clean out your home, barn, cellar or shed.

Call Ed Chase at 544-3554 or Anne Diemand at 544-6111 for further information.

A.D.

WENDELL LITTER PICK-UP DAY

The 21st annual litter pick-up day will be on Saturday, May 12, 2001. We will meet at the town playground and decide what roads to pick up. Several years ago we also started to clean up the playground – leaving a crew there for that purpose. This has worked out very well for parents (or grandparents) of smaller children.

Last year I also had several residents call and ask me if they picked up the litter on a stretch of road and left it in bags along the way, could we pick up the bags. This was a great way for people to insure their part of town got picked up. We appreciate everyone over the years that have come out to help. Whether its helping at the tail end with a pickup truck, donating some trash bags or homemade goodies to share, or the time it takes to walk a couple miles and pick up the litter – it all means a lot to the organizers of the annual spring gathering.

For more information call Ted Lewis at 544-3329 or Anne Diemand at 544-6111 A.D.